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CONFIDENTIAL.

(6833.)

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6824.]

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Asiatic Turkey.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6824.]

No. 1.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 498.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 27, 1896.*

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 6 of the 1st January, 1895, I have received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting that the ten remaining Narman prisoners were tried on the 11th instant before the Court of Appeal, and that seven of them were condemned to death and two sentenced to three years' imprisonment. The latter, however, have been released, as they have already been nearly five years in prison. One of the prisoners has been acquitted.

The sentences have been referred to Constantinople for confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 2.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 251.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 1, 1896, 10·10 A.M.*

I RECEIVED a telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van yesterday, stating that the reports from the villages are bad, and that he fears that the Kurds have massacred 5 per cent of the male population.

No. 3.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 252.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 1, 1896, noon.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs states that the appointment of a Christian Kaimakam of Zeitoun has been offered to Govanaki who is a Greek Rajah, little known. A Turkish Moavin will be attached to him. The appointment, as yet, has not been mentioned in official newspapers.

No. 4.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 254.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 1, 1896, 1·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 113 of the 30th June.

Vali has been instructed by the Grand Vizier to take every precaution for Mr. Fitzmaurice's safety, but I will again call attention to the matter.

I have received a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice stating that fifty families, who had escaped from Birejik, have reverted to Christianity. I am endeavouring to persuade Porte, in compliance with his request, not only to allow converts to leave if they choose, but also to insure security for those who return to Christianity and wish to remain.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 180.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 1, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 486 and 490 of the 24th ultimo respecting the recent disturbances at Van, and I approve the representations which you have made at the Porte and the Palace, urging the necessity of energetic measures for the maintenance of order in the town of Van and the surrounding district.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 182.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 1, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 469 of the 17th instant relative to Shakir Pasha's tour of inspection in the Anatolian provinces, and the objections made by his Excellency and the Porte to the attendance of Mr. Vice-Consul Bulman during the Marshal's visit to Kara-Hissar.

I entirely approve the communication made by Mr. Block to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in your despatch; and I consider that, in view of the fact that Shakir Pasha is accompanied by a Russian Consular officer, Her Majesty's Embassy should insist on the right of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls to be also present during the Marshal's tour of inspection.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 7.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulhek, July 2, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 37 regarding the murder of a Nestorian Bishop, I have the honour to report that I have received corroborating news from the Persian Government and also from our Consul-General at Tabreez.

Mr. Wood reports that there is a rumour that there has been a great massacre of Armenians by Kurds at Van, in which the British Consul has been killed. I am making further inquiries.

No. 8.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 3.)

Sir, *Downing Street, July 2, 1896.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to the letter from this office of the 18th March, the accompanying copy of a correspondence respecting a proposal which has been made to settle a certain number of Armenian women and children in Cyprus.

2. I am to add, with reference to the letter from this office of the 4th March, that Mr. Chamberlain has not as yet received any reply from the Governor-General of Canada with regard to the Rev. R. Chambers' suggestion of an Armenian Colony in Canada, but that he has inquired whether the Canadian Government have come to any decision respecting that suggestion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Canon Scott Holland to Lord Selborne.

Dear Lord Selborne, 1, *Amen Court, St. Paul's, London.*

SOME of those who are most deeply concerned with this Armenian misery are considering whether England cannot do something to enable the destitute and outraged people to escape from the horrors which we are powerless to check. And the question is whether Cyprus would not be available and practicable as a haven of refuge.

The Armenians are excellent settlers; they are ready to go. They could be got away. It is a short journey. Those who know them and Cyprus are inclined to consider it perfectly practicable.

It would be a curious justification for our possession of Cyprus, in return for our protection of Armenia.

It would be a release to our national conscience, which is weighted with a responsibility which it knows not how to fulfil. Would Mr. Chamberlain be willing to consider it?—to receive a small deputation on the matter?—to inquire through our Consuls or Minister at Constantinople how far it would be a merciful solution?

The Armenians are pouring out wherever they can, I gather especially into Russia—where allowed. Could we not house them? At least, could we save, and put into security, these starving women left to be outraged, as they now are, by Turk and Kurd?

If it were practicable and Government could offer terms, there would be no difficulty in raising funds in aid. It would touch people's hearts.

I venture to write to you, as Cyprus is under the Colonial Office, and because you will know what are the possibilities of Mr. Chamberlain interesting himself in any such scheme.

Yours truly,
(Signed) H. S. HOLLAND.

P.S.—Could I call and see you?

H. S. H.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Sir W. Sendall to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Government House, Cyprus, April 17, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 18th March, asking for my observations upon a suggestion that has been made by the British Consul at Erzeroum, to the effect that some of the Armenians who are emigrating from that neighbourhood might be received in Cyprus.

2. This suggestion is perhaps based upon the belief that there is plenty of cultivable land at the disposal of this Government which might be assigned to such emigrants as a settlement; but this is not the case.

3. When in the year 1883 the somewhat analogous experiment was tried of settling a number of Jewish refugees in Cyprus, a place was found for them on a tract of land in the district of Papho called Orides, which forms part of what is known as the Sultan's claims. This and the neighbouring tract of land called Randi, also a part of the Sultan's claims, were then and are still the only localities in the island in which it would be in the power of the Government to establish a Colony of immigrants without the necessity of purchasing land from the existing occupiers.

4. A Report by Mr. Thompson, the Commissioner of the District, upon the Jewish settlement in Orides (which eventually proved a complete failure), will be found in Sir Robert Biddulph's despatch of the 30th November, 1883. Both Orides and Randi are tracts of land possessing considerable value, but their value consists not so much in their suitability for ordinary cultivation as in the fact that they are covered with wild olives and wild carobs, which by grafting might be made to yield a large revenue. The character of the land is hilly, and the slopes might be planted with vines; but some years would elapse before any return could be realized either from vine-growing or from grafting the wild trees. For the cultivation of cereals, or other yearly crops, the land is, I should say, decidedly not suitable, both from the nature of the soil and from the scarcity of water.

5. There would, in my opinion, be no prospect of success in such an enterprise as the settlement of a colony of Armenian agriculturists on these lands; and as I have already stated, there is no other land available for the purpose except by purchase.

6. Orides and Randi are now delimited State forests, and the neighbouring villagers exercise considerable privileges of pasturage over them, which would have to be readjusted if any part of the land were given up to new settlers for the purpose of cultivation.

7. It should be added in connection with this subject that the Armenian is not liked either by the Christian or the Moslem Cypriot; and that any proposal to establish here a colony of Armenian refugees would not be regarded with favour by the rest of the community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL,
High Commissioner.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

Lord Selborne to Canon Scott Holland.

(Confidential.)
Dear Canon Scott Holland, *Downing Street, June 6, 1896.*

REFERRING to you letter of the 16th March respecting the establishment of an Armenian Colony in Cyprus, I am asked by Mr. Chamberlain to let you know that he has been considering the proposal very carefully, and has had the advantage, as you are perhaps aware, of receiving a statement of the views of Mrs. Sheldon Amos, reported to him by a member of this Department with whom that lady recently had an interview; but it is with regret that he has to say that he cannot encourage a proposal with the object of which he has every sympathy.

The Government of Cyprus has practically no cultivatable land to sell or give away, and if the promoters of the scheme were to propose to buy land for these destitute people, it will be a question for the Government of Cyprus whether it ought not to use its powers under a local law, which enables it to exclude certain classes of immigrants, including those who, so far as their own ability to support themselves is concerned, are to be classed as "destitute." Before countenancing the settlement of Armenians in the island by a charitable body, the Local Government would, in self-protection, have to ask for an effective guarantee that the persons responsible for settling them would also make themselves responsible for their ultimate removal from the island, should it prove, as is probable, that the people were unable to earn a living. You may not know that in the Cyprus Legislature the unofficial members are in a majority, and that no public money can be spent without the approval of that Legislature. It is believed here that the majority would never consent to vote money for the introduction, support, or even the removal of Armenians.

They are either Turks or Orthodox Christians, and with neither class are Armenians

in any sense popular. The Armenian in the Levant is judged by those of the nation who follow trading, money-lending, and interpreting vocations, and these have, I fear, earned a bad name for the whole of their people.

There is already in the island a small body of Armenians, which appears to include some militant politicians, and we have already had complaints from the Turks of their intrigues and of their smuggling of arms for Armenians scattered throughout Asia Minor. You will understand that our position in Cyprus, as administrators of a part of the Sultan's dominions, is a delicate one, and that we have to be rigid in the discharge of the duties of neutrality. To increase the Armenian element in the population by refugees smarting under the remembrance of oppression would greatly enhance our difficulties, and might even affect the internal peace of the island, especially in view of passing events in the neighbouring Island of Crete.

Mrs. Sheldon Amos put forward a plan of a settlement of widows and orphans only; but I think I am not far wrong in conjecturing that where Armenian women and children are, thither Armenian men would soon follow. We tried a benevolent scheme of settling persecuted Jews in Cyprus some years ago, but it was a dead failure from an economic point of view, and we had endless trouble before we were rid of them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SELBORNE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 8.

Mrs. Amos to Lord Selborne.

5, Oxford and Cambridge Mansions, London,
Dear Sir, *June 11, 1896.*

CANON SCOTT HOLLAND has kindly shown me the letter you have sent to him on the scheme for emigrating a few Armenian widows and orphans. And I beg to lay before you fresh considerations, on which I would also with great earnestness request that you will spare time for a short conversation with me.

The need for getting them away is more and more pressingly urged upon us by those working in the country.

The best authority on the question is of opinion that he could, with sufficient funds, get the people out of Turkey.

I inclose Memorandum drawn up by a business man (I suppose the most prominent one) in the Island of Cyprus, who strongly favours the scheme.

We should have been grateful if the Government had been able to grant us the land granted to a former unsuccessful Colony, but we never dreamed of depending on that, as the land would only have been suitable for quite subsidiary cultivations.

We should have been grateful if Government had felt able to subsidize the scheme, but we always thought that very doubtful, and have always expected it to depend on the gifts of those who pity the people, and have confidence in the scheme and its promoters.

We should never have formed a scheme that was not sufficiently financed to secure the people—for whose comfort we shall make ourselves responsible—from destitution and from becoming dependent on the Cyprian Government. And we shall be perfectly willing to place in the hands of the High Commissioner a sum (on deposit with interest) sufficient to guarantee the possibility of deporting the people.

But we are confident that the introduction of a capable and industrious Colony, well officered by the promoters of the scheme, will not fail as colonies of persons do who have been failures elsewhere. These people have suffered by being so successful as to be worth plundering.

And may I entreat for dispatch in answer to our appeal that we may at least not have the opposition of the Colonial Office. The probability of disease breaking out in Asia Minor, and of consequent quarantine in Cyprus, is so obvious that delay might cause the abandonment of these few people (whom we might save) to epidemic or to the certainty of starvation, death by cold and homelessness, when winter comes in Armenia.

We only want to do what we do for our own poor—to keep them alive and make decent conditions for them.

Cyprus is so much a part of England that we cannot contemplate a refusal to allow oppressed fugitives to harbour there.

But there are many practical points which I earnesly desire to speak to you upon, and I hope you will find time to see me within the next few days.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) SARAH M. AMOS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 8.

Memorandum.

THE facts in favour of selecting Cyprus as the most suitable place for the establish ment of Armenian Colonies may be briefly summarised as follows:—

(*a.*) The climate, habits, and mode of life do not differ materially from those which obtain in Asia Minor.

(*b.*) The distance from Alexandretta (the most convenient point of embarkation on the coast) is not great, and consequently the expenses of removal would not be very large.

(*c.*) The Christians and Mussulmans in Cyprus live in perfect amity. There is perfect security to life and property and an impartial administration of justice.

(*d.*) The cost of living in the island is extremely low; the climate is healthy and the soil extremely fertile. The present population (215,000) is very small in proportion to the area of arable land, and there is consequently any amount of room for new comers. In ancient times the island supported in comfort and prosperity a population of a million souls, and there is no reason whatever why it should not do so again.

With reference to the cost of living, I may mention that the market price of meat is not over 3*d.* per lb. Bread, fruit, and vegetables being lower in proportion.

Assuming that the object of the Society interested in providing a home for some of the Armenians will be to render the settlements self-supporting and independent of external aid within the shortest space of time possible, and that many of the sufferers whom it is intended to relieve will be women and children, it is, I venture to suggest, most important that the sites of the proposed settlements should be selected with a view to facilitate the employment of these poor creatures in some industry for which they are best fitted. I would suggest that the establishment of a silk reeling factory somewhere in the Paphos district would afford a means of livelihood for a considerable number of women and children. The quantity of cocoons at present produced in the environs of Paphos is quite sufficient to maintain a factory of fifty reels in constant work, and each reel would provide employment for one woman and girl. The process is easily learnt, and there would be no difficulty in securing the services of a practical overseer from one of the factories in the Lebanon to teach the pupils and generally superintend the work. A factory of fifty reels could be built and fitted up for about 1,500*l.*

Further funds would, of course, be required for the purchase of cocoons. The cost of living being so much lower in Cyprus than it is in Europe, there is no doubt that such a factory would prove a success financially, and leave a considerable margin of profit after providing for the maintenance of the hands employed in it. A certain number of young girls could also be trained as domestic servants. The Cypriote women do not take kindly to in-door work, and there is, consequently, a good demand for efficient women servants among the families resident in the island. A convenient building for a training establishment of this description is ready to hand at Limassol. The premises were built for a hotel, they are large and well situated just outside the town, and have large grounds covering several acres. The property now belongs to the Greek schools, and could, I think, be leased for about 30*l.* or 35*l.* per annum. It would easily accommodate some fifty girls.

The cost of maintaining the school and factory hands could be materially lessened by the establishment of an agricultural colony somewhere between Paphos and Limassol, and this would also provide a means of livelihood for a considerable number of immigrants. Suitable lands could be either purchased or leased at a moderate cost.

All such necessaries and requisites as beds, bedding, simple furniture, cooking utensils, &c., can be purchased in the island far cheaper than they could be provided from outside, and it would tend to enlist the sympathy of the native residents in the new comers, were their needs supplied, as far as possible, from local resources.

In calculating the amount required to bring over and maintain colonists in Cyprus, including the cost of supervision and instruction, I am of opinion that a sum of 10*l.* per head might be needed annually for a period of five years.

In view of the difficulty of maintaining public interest in a charitable work of this

nature for long periods after the events to which it owes its origin have passed away, it would, I venture to suggest to those interested in the present movement, be more practical if the whole amount required to provide for the future of a given number of destitute families could be raised at once while the memory of their sufferings is still fresh. This money invested judiciously in Cyprus in the formation of self-supporting Colonies would become a lasting and permanent charity, and permit of other sufferers being in turn relieved as the first ones were gradually provided for and became independent of outside help.

In the event of the proposal to provide a home in Cyprus for some of the Armenian sufferers assuming definite shape, I think it would be advisable that all negotiations for the purchase or hiring of property should be intrusted to some one possessing a thorough knowledge of the island. The mere fact of sending out a special Representative would excite the cupidity of the natives, and lead to extravagant prices being asked. In view of the charitable objects involved, I think I may safely promise that the Cyprus Company would agree to act as agents for the Society for a purely nominal commission, and as the Company has a large staff in the island thoroughly acquainted with its resources and with the best manner of dealing with the inhabitants, I am sure that its services would prove of great advantage.

Inclosure 6 in No. 8.

Mr. Chamberlain to Sir W. Sendall.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 26, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 17th April regarding the proposed settlement of Armenian colonists in Cyprus.

I now inclose a copy of further correspondence which has passed on this subject.

You will see that the project which is entertained by Mrs. Sheldon Amos and those with whom she is acting is for the settlement in Cyprus of a number of Armenian widows and orphans. I may mention, however, that this appears to be only one of the schemes which the Society are considering for planting Armenian Colonies in different parts of the world, but it is the one which they regard as most urgent in order that a few of the women and children who have been left destitute by the recent troubles may be saved from starvation or death by cold during the coming winter.

The Society believes that these women, having been accustomed to agricultural and other manual labour in Armenia, would soon be in a position to support themselves in Cyprus, and in Cyprus far more easily than in other countries where the conditions of life would be more different from those to which they have been accustomed.

The Society, as you will see from the inclosed correspondence, are prepared to afford substantial support to the refugees, and, in the course of an interview with the Earl of Selborne, Mrs. Amos gave an assurance that they would provide land and buildings bought or hired on contract for a term of years, farming implements, seed, &c.; proper supervision of the work of the colonists, sufficient funds for maintenance during the first two years, and a reserve fund for carrying the immigrants out of Cyprus in case the experiment should prove a failure.

In these circumstances, although being assisted by charitable aid, the persons whom it is proposed to introduce into the island might perhaps be described as destitute, it would be scarcely possible to exclude them by Proclamation under Ordinance No. 1 of 1882, but the Society are anxious not only that no opposition should be offered by the Government of Cyprus or by this Department, but also that a formal approval of their project should be given.

I should be glad to have your opinion on the scheme as it is now explained, and, as the Society are eager to commence their operations as soon as possible, and do not wish to take any serious steps in negotiating for land and so forth before they have obtained a definite expression of approval, I request that you will communicate with me by telegraph at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Inclosure 7 in No. 8.

Colonial Office to Mrs. Amos.

Madam, *Downing Street, July 2, 1896.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th ultimo, and to your interview with the Earl of Selborne on the 23rd ultimo, regarding the proposed settlement of Armenian widows and orphans in Cyprus, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that he is unable to express approval of the scheme which you have laid before this Department until he has consulted further with the High Commissioner of the island, who has not yet had an opportunity of giving an opinion as to the definite proposals now made.

The recent correspondence has accordingly been sent to Sir Walter Sendall, and he has been requested to telegraph his reply, so that Mr. Chamberlain hopes to be able to make a further communication to you as to the attitude of the Cyprus Government and of this Department towards your proposals in about three weeks' time.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 9.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulhek, July 3, 1896.*

MR. WOOD reports that there are fears that the Persian Kurds may break into the plain of Salmas. The holy war is being preached among them. I have pointed out the danger to the Persian Government. Reports from Urmi confirm the news of massacres at Van.

No. 10.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July 3, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 497 with regard to the state of affairs at Diarbekir, and request that you will inform me whether any answer has been returned by the Turkish Government to the representations for the removal of the Vali which have been made by you and the French Ambassador.

As a fresh massacre would have, here and elsewhere, a serious influence on Cretan and other questions in which the Porte is interested, I have to instruct you, in the case of no reply having been received, to press the matter again upon the attention of the Turkish Government.

No. 11.

Anthopoulos Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de lui faire parvenir, ci-inclus, une communication télégraphique qu'il vient de recevoir de la Sublime Porte.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres, le 3 Juillet, 1896.

Inclosure in No. 11.

The Sublime Porte to Anthopoulos Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Juillet,* 1896.

LES tribus nomades Persanes appelées Bechkiaque, Elend, et Grossanli qui franchissent fréquemment la frontière et qui sont commandées par leur Chef, commettent des méfaits sur le territoire de l'Empire.

Comme ces méfaits et crimes sont perpétrés chez nous, on ne manquera certes pas de les attribuer gratuitement aux sujets paisibles de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Maître.

No. 12.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 284.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 4, 1896, 11·20 A.M.*

I HAVE pressed repeatedly this week for the dismissal of the Vali of Diarbekir, both at the Porte and the Palace, and have on each occasion been told that the question is being considered. I fancy that the Turkish Government have given him a hint to keep quiet for the moment, although they are unwilling to remove him.

No. 13.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 499.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 29, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Smyrna respecting the reported massacre at Alasheir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Acting Consul-General Shipley to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Smyrna, June 20, 1896.*

PARAGRAPHS having recently appeared in the editions of the "Times" and "Standard" of the 8th and 18th, and 8th and 9th instant respectively, to the effect that, according to advices received from Smyrna at Athens, a band of Kurds had made an attack on the workmen employed on the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway extension line, and that over 200 persons, including the British, French, and German engineers, had been killed, I have the honour to report that nothing appears to be known at Smyrna of any such attack, or of any loss of life referred to in the newspapers in question. Moreover, as far as I have been able to ascertain, there are no British subjects, engineers or otherwise, now employed on the extension works of the line above referred to.

I regret, however, to have to report that, while no massacre, such as that described by the "Times" and "Standard," has taken place, the Turkish authorities, and notably those of Alasheir and Takurak, have apparently given themselves no trouble whatever to protect the lives and property of the workmen engaged on the railway extension works in that district. The attack by the Kurds on certain Armenian workmen near Alasheir at the beginning of May last, has already been reported to Her Majesty's Embassy by Mr. Consul-General Holmwood in his despatch of the 12th ultimo, and I am now informed by Mr. Mancinelli Scotti, the Acting Italian Consul-General in this town, that for two months past the Italian workmen on the line in question, of whom there are altogether about 4,000, have been systematically robbed and maltreated by bands of Kurds without the least attempt on the part of the authorities to put a stop to their proceedings.

The latest exploit of these Kurds, Mr. Scotti stated, was to attack and plunder, about the 28th May last, the sheds of the Italian workmen near Alasheir when seven of the latter were wounded, two subsequently succumbing to the injuries received. Mr. Scotti complained especially of the conduct of the Kaimakams of Alasheir and Takurak, who have showed themselves actually hostile to the foreign element and who, so far from attempting to punish the Kurds, had thought it necessary to take away the few revolvers, which some of the workmen had procured for their own personal protection, thus leaving them entirely defenceless.

The situation, however, Mr. Scotti informed me had improved, though only

slightly, during the past few days, as, owing to the strong representations made by the Italian Embassy at Constantinople, a force of some eighty gendarmes had been despatched for the protection of the workmen.

A promise, Mr. Scotti further mentioned, had been made by the Sublime Porte to the Italian Ambassador that a mounted force of gendarmes should be sent to the district in question, but this promise had not been fulfilled. The Kurds, Mr. Scotti had reason to believe, were Kurds who had been expelled some time previously from the Vilayet of Broussa.

I may add that Mr. de Janko, the Austro-Hungarian Consul in this town, has the same complaints to make, though the number, he tells me, of Austro-Hungarian subjects employed on the line is limited, and consists chiefly of Croats. These, however, were gradually beginning to leave, not caring to work under such conditions as those described above.

I have referred to the depredations of these Kurds as systematic, and the fact that the latter are very well acquainted with the days on which the workmen are paid, and time their robberies accordingly, is not one which is creditable to the Turkish authorities of those districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have been informed by his Highness Kiamil Pasha that the force sent to Alashcir consisted of soldiers not gendarmes as mentioned by Mr. Scotti, and further that, according to information received from the Ministry of War by him, an additional force of 100 cavalry soldiers had been dispatched to the district in question from Broussa.

H. S. S.

No. 14.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 503.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 30, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul Acting at Angora respecting the exile of the Vali of Castamouni to Cæsarea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Acting-Consul Richards to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Angora, June 24, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Halid Bey, the Vali of Castamouni, who, it would appear, has incurred the grave displeasure of the Imperial Government, has been exiled to Cæsarea.

I am informed on good authority that Halid Bey, finding that the subordinate officials at Castamboi were as a body systematically guilty of the grossest forms of venality and malversation, wrote some time since to the Minister of the Interior to complain of the existing state of things, and to request that certain persons mentioned by him should be at once dismissed.

The Vali appears to have waited some time for a reply to his report, and receiving none telegraphed to Constantinople to ask if his despatch had been received, and if so why it has not been answered. Again, it would appear, no reply was forthcoming. Thereupon his Excellency retired to a country house situated on the outskirts of the town, and telegraphed to the Minister of the Interior to the effect that inasmuch as he could obtain no replies either to his letter or his telegram, and seeing that he could not find it in his conscience to co-operate with certain functionaries whose dismissal he had in vain demanded, he begged to offer his resignation, and requested that his successor might be appointed and sent out to Castambol at once. The reply came this time in the shape of Mehemet Bey, one of the Sultan's Aides-de-camp, who informed Halid Bey that his instructions were to escort his Excellency to Cæsarea,

where he was to remain in exile during His Majesty's pleasure. This happened about ten days ago, Mehemet Bey having just returned from Cæsarea after executing his commission.

The above I believe to be a fairly correct account of this incident, though I am not in a positon to guarantee its exactness in all its details.

I am informed, though with what amount of truth I cannot say, that Halid Bey is a member of the Young Turkish Party.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 15.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 505.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 30, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, giving an account of a recent journey in the Khozan and Hadjin districts, which he undertook with the sanction of Sir Philip Currie, in view of the disturbed state of those regions, and forwarding a statement of the expenses incurred by him from the 20th April to the 23rd May.

I have to recommend Major Massy's claim to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Vice-Consul Massy to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Mersina, June 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to submit my claim for travelling expenses during my journey in the remoter districts of my province, authorized in your Excellency's cypher telegram of the 12th April.

I am pleased to be in a position to state that I was able, personally, to accomplish the objects of my journey without having recourse to your Excellency's intervention, and from my endeavours much good has, so far, resulted.

I beg to submit to your Excellency some of the chief results of my journey:—

The relief works, organized at Hadjin (where the Christian population was in a starving condition), which had been stopped by Government obstacles, were at once recommenced.

The collection of taxes from the poverty-stricken Christian population, which was being pressed on unremittingly, so as to almost goad the people into open revolt, was discontinued in a great measure.

The rebuilding of the town of Shahr, pillaged and destroyed in the winter, has been commenced.

Patrols and guards have been established on the principal roads, to secure free traffic and passage to their fields of Christians.

Two Christian churches, at Sis and Osmanié, occupied by soldiery as barracks, were at once vacated.

Several cases of attempted forced conversions have been stopped.

In fact, the general situation has been improved, and it is satisfactory to learn from a letter received from Mr. Martin at Hadjin, dated a few days back, that the improvement continues.

He writes:—

"Your visit, I am sure, has had a good effect here. Taxes are being collected, but there is not so much oppression as formerly. The Kaimakam says he is going out to Shahr after the Bairam to superintend the rebuilding and repairing of the houses there.

"We are also to have several new fountains in this town, and a system of sewerage that will for ever banish the smells and impurities that have hitherto distinguished Hadjin!"

He expresses the hope that I may return in August or September.

The cleansing of Hadjin will probably avert an epidemic as bad as that lately raging at Zeitoun. I have never before visited so filthy a place, and I am especially pleased at having succeeded in enforcing some measures towards improving it in this respect.

I agree with Mr. Martin that my presence will be again necessary at Hadjin before winter.

It is only by the energy and endeavours of Consular officers in personally visiting districts, before disturbances actually break out, that Turkish officials can be prevailed upon to show justice to the Christian population. Protests from a distance are useless, are invariably met with denials and falsehoods. Personal visits are necessary which admit of no such prevarications.

I would beg to record my opinion that the only means of checking oppression and excesses, under present political conditions, is to have Consular officers constantly travelling through their districts, observing and inquiring personally, and arriving suddenly and unexpectedly to report when least awaited. It is noteworthy that disturbances and massacres have almost always occurred to the greatest extent in the least accessible and, therefore, least visited districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 16.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 506.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 1, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus respecting the outbreak of the Druses in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Damascus, June 19, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that though considerable discontent has lately been manifested by the Druses and the Hauranni Moslems with the Government, there was no suspicion that any overt action would be taken by the population of the Hauran, more especially in view of the late reverses suffered by the Druses. The news, therefore, that the Druses had risen came like a thunderclap, and has taken every one by surprise.

The discontent above mentioned was entirely due to the rapacity and injustice of the local Government. There is, of course, nothing new in this, but it appears that Khosrev Pasha, who is the Vali's nominee as Acting Kaimakam of the Jebel Druse, has pushed matters too far in his pecuniary exactions and his maltreatment of recalcitrants who refused to submit to his extortions. The proceeds were shared between the Governor-General and Khosrev Pasha, and report has it that they made a very good business. The Hauranni Moslems also have lately been much disturbed by orders issued by the Vali that the tithes should no longer be assessed at a fixed value for the province as heretofore, but that all the corn should be collected in the villages and that the tithes should be taken in kind on the spot, no peasant being allowed to thrash or handle his corn until the tithe is taken. As this system opens a wide door to peculation, and causes great loss to the peasant, the Hauranis demanded aid from the Druses, who replied that they had been left in the lurch before by the Hauranis and now the latter might fight out their own dispute by themselves. The opposition to the new system was however so strong that the Vali withdrew two days ago the army of tithe-gatherers that had been dispatched to the Hauran, and the tithe is to be assessed in the old fashion.

In spite of this change of front, however, I learn that the Moslems are going to throw in their lot with the Druses. The latter on Monday last attacked a body of fifty gendarmes who had gone to Arman (a village between Sweidah and Salkhad) to

arrest some Druses who had had a quarrel with the Bedouins. The police were cut to pieces, only a few escaping. There were at that time four battalions of regular troops at Sweidah and Bozrah-el-Harir, Mamdouh Pasha being in command and residing in the last-named town. A battalion and a-half of regulars with 100 mounted infantry and two guns, dispatched in hot haste to the scene of the fighting, were suprised at dawn by the Druses and the whole body killed or taken prisoners with the exception of some seventy fugitives, who made their way to Bozrah-el-Harir. The Druses captured 800 rifles with ammunition and two guns.

The Druses, of whose numbers I have no certain information, then proceeded to Sweidah, burnt the Government buildings and invested the fortified barracks. The troops have only two days' rations and will probably be driven to surrender.

The local Government has sent three battalions of troops from this place yesterday and to-day, but they dare not proceed further than Sheikh Meskin. The troops at Bozrah are also unable to move being too few in number.

Telegraphic information has been received that six battalions of Albanian troops are to be dispatched from Salonica and four Zeibek battalions from Smyrna. The authorities are also going to call out four Redif battalions from the Baalbec district, four from Acre and two from the neighbourhood of Damascus.

It is not known at present where the money required for the troops is to be found, the local Government having been driven to such shifts as taking 1,000*l.* from the orphan fund and 2,000*l.* from the fund for rebuilding the Grand Mosque. It is to be feared that if such troops as the Zeibek battalions, whose reputation is of the worst, are brought here and left without pay and supplies, as in the previous expedition, the safety of the city may be endangered.

In my humble judgment this outbreak is likely to prove far more serious than the events that took place in the winter. The Druses were then divided, half-hearted, and appeared to have no stomach for fighting. Now they seem to be united and animated both by revenge and despair, and they can easily retreat to inaccessible positions in the Ledja if too hardly pressed. They may also have learnt wisdom by experience, and may attack the troops in detail without giving time for reinforcements to come up.

If the Arabs and Mahommedans make common cause with them, the outlook is very black indeed, and it is impossible to say what will be the end unless the Ottoman Government gives way and restores to them their independence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 17.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 507.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 230 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas respecting the disturbance at Nikran and Erbaa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Sivas, June 24, 1896.*

IN confirmation of my telegram, I have the honour to report that on Friday last a disturbance occurred at Nikran. The following are the details received from Government sources:—

An Armenian, known to be a leading member of the Revolutionary Committee, fired and killed a Turk, a coldjy of the Régie. The Turks then attacked the house

from which the shot had been fired. In the scuffle which followed about 100 Armenians and 40 Turks were killed. This happened about 10 A.M.

On the following day a fresh disturbance took place at Erbaa, where some Armenians had taken refuge from Nikran and two Armenians were killed and seven Turks wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 18.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 508.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Block giving particulars as to the past career of Zihni Pashi and Namik Effendi, who have been appointed respectively Vali of Khoudaven-dighiar (Broussa) and Vali of Tripoli in Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

TURKISH "Official Gazette" of the 20th instant contains the following appointments:—

Zihni Pasha, formerly Vali of Aleppo, to be Vali of Broussa.

Namik Effendi, ex-chief accountant at the Treasury, to be Vali of Tripoli in Africa.

(Signed) E. C. BLECH.

Zihni Pasha has held many posts in the Turkish service and in recent Ministeries. His record will be found in the archives. He is the person who was proposed for the Presidency of the Armenian Commission of Control, but whom the Sultan afterwards refused to appoint in spite of public promises, His Majesty alleging that Zihni's state of health did not admit of his occupying the post. He is now named Governor-General of one of the most important vilayets in Asia. The recall of Munir Pasha is to be attributed to his own desire, frequently expressed, to be relieved of his duties, and I believe he paid large sums of money to be recalled. He was Minister of the Interior in Kiamil Pasha's Ministry in 1885, and was sent to Broussa as an exile. He has since lost further favour at the Palace, chiefly owing to the fact that no Armenian troubles have occurred in his province, thanks to his energetic and praiseworthy conduct.

Namik Effendi, the new Vali of Tripoli, is a pushing, energetic, but coarse, individual who has been in lucrative posts at the Ministry of Finance, and on special missions in the province for many years past. He has an extensive knowledge of the Empire, and may turn out an active Governor-General. He drinks hard, and is corrupt as can be, and at the same time unscrupulous. He will go out of his way to assist a friend, and has, to my knowledge, shown considerable independence and audacity in shuffling out of his superior instructions when it suited him. He is distinctly sharp and intelligent, and, unless he drinks himself to death, may still more come to the front. He is, unfortunately, idle at times, and fond of pleasure, in pursuit of which he is prepared to spend large sums of money—whether his own or that of the State I am unable to state.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

No. 19.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 509.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 221 of the 19th ultimo, with regard to the rising of the Druses in the Hauran, I have the honour to transmit herewith paraphrase of a telegram which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout on the subject.

In accordance with Mr. Drummond Hay's suggestion Mr. Block has, by my instructions, requested the Minister for Foreign Affairs to cause instructions to be sent to the Commander-in-chief to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, to respect the women and children, and to spare those Druses of the Hauran and the Jebel who have not participated in the revolt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Consul-General Drummond-Hay to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Beyrout, June 29, 1896.*

MY telegram of the 26th ultimo.

Yesterday 2,400 troops of the Reserve were disembarked at Beyrout.

The Governor-General of Bagdad will replace the Vali of Damascus who has been dismissed, and this morning the Vali of Beyrout left for Damascus to act *ad interim*.

The Druses are reported to be disunited, and several are said to have displayed their loyalty by giving the besieged garrison provisions. The restoration of order will be facilitated by this.

I suggest that the Porte should instruct the Commander-in-chief to abstain from unnecessarily shedding blood, to respect the women and children, and more especially to spare the lives of those Druses of the Jebel and the Hauran who have not taken part in the rising.

The wisdom and humanity of the Acting Governor-General are well known, but the military authorities may disregard his counsel.

No. 20.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 511.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1896.*

THE Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Mr. Block a few days ago that Nazim Pasha, the Vali of Van, had resigned, and that Shemseddin Bey, late Ottoman Ambassador in Tehran, had been appointed Vali in his place.

The resignation of one of the few Valis who had a good record is to be regretted, but it appears that it was brought about by the proclamation of martial law at Van, which deprived him of all authority.

Shemseddin Bey, the new Vali, is a pleasant-mannered, quiet, and well-educated man, and was for many years employed at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs before going to Persia. He has had no administrative experience before, but Major Williams telegraphed yesterday that he was doing very well in his new capacity.

I have not thought it expedient to take any steps to obtain a decoration for Nazim Pasha, as suggested by Major Williams in his telegram of 18th June, which was repeated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 217 of 19th June.

[Not signed.]

No. 21.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 513.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 254 of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose paraphrase of a telegram which I have received from Mr. Fitzmaurice in regard to the situation at Birejik. Mr. Block, in accordance with my request, has urged upon the Porte the necessity of sending instructions to the Commission as suggested by Mr. Fitzmaurice, and the Russian First Dragoman has warmly supported his representations. I have also asked personally at the Palace that the converts should be allowed to leave Birejik if they wished, and that orders should be sent to restore tranquillity and confidence among those who desire to return to Christianity and remain there, pointing out at the same time how cruel it was that these unfortunate persons should have either to remain Moslems against their convictions, or to abandon their homes and all they possess in order to be able to return to the religion of their ancestors.

I fear that it is impossible to hope that much will be done at Birejik unless the authors of the late massacres there are punished, and unless the Turkish authorities display more force and energy than they have hitherto done, but, unfortunately, neither the Sultan nor the Porte are inclined to resort to drastic measures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Birejik, June 26, 1896.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 19th instant:

About fifty converted families who have succeeded in escaping from Birejik to other towns have turned Christian again, and of those who remain the greater portion wish to become Christian, and to stay here; fear alone prevents them from doing this. It is very hard, after the great loss of life which they have already sustained, that in order to profess their old religion they should be obliged to abandon their homes and the trifling property that remains to them, and their departure is now prohibited by the local authorities.

The Commission is absolutely without instructions on conversion question, except regarding church, or with regard to myself, and has not even the power to propose any remedy.

It is essential that the Palace, from which it depends directly, and not from the Porte, should instruct the Commission that necessary measures to remove the convert's fears should be taken, or at least proposed.

I am on excellent terms with the Committee personally, and I am hopeful of a favourable result if some such instructions are sent, and a little pressure used. The Commission have reported to the Palace the restoration of tranquillity, but they have not reported the restoration of confidence among the converts, nor the return to Christianity of those who have fled. It is probable that many of those who remain really wish to revert, although they profess to wish to remain Mussulman.

No. 22.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 515.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 451 of the 9th June, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Levant Herald" respecting the departure of the Hamidieh cavalry from Erzeroum to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of June 29, 1896.

HAMIDIEH CAVALRY FOR CONSTANTINOPLE.—One of the squadrons of Hamidieh Cavalry, which, by Imperial Order, will be brought to Constantinople, left Erzeroum on Thursday last to proceed to the head-quarters of the 4th Army Corps. The squadron is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Koulihan Bey. Before leaving Erzeroum the troopers assembled in the square of the Government House, where a prayer was said for His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, whose name was cheered.

No. 23.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 516.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Levant Herald" concerning the admission of non-Mussulmans into the gendarmerie of the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of June 29, 1896.

IT seems that the execution of the Article of the new Charter of Reforms relative to the admission of non-Mussulmans into the gendarmerie of the provinces meets with serious difficulties in Erzeroum, owing to the reluctance of the Christian population to take service in the local gendarmerie. The number of Christians who have been enrolled is much below the fixed number, and, says a Turkish paper, as it is desired to avoid delay in the work of reorganizing the gendarmerie, the term for the enrolment of Christians has been extended for 2 weeks, after which all vacancies will be filled by Mussulmans.

No. 24.

Anthopoulos Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de lui faire parvenir ci-joint, pour son information, copie d'un télégramme qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 4 Juillet, 1896.

Inclosure in No. 24.

The Sublime Porte to Anthopoulos Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 3 Juillet,* 1896.

LES autorités de Van nous télégraphient que les tribus nomades de Chekak établies en Perse ont traversé la frontière sous le commandement de Fasso, Djilad,

Méhémed Emin, et Timour Aghas, et fait irruption dans les Cazas de Guevar, d'Erbac, et de Mahmoud en y commettant toute espèce de meurtres et en se livrant au pillage.

Profitant de l'occasion et faisant cause commune avec les Chekaks un grand nombre d'agitateurs Arméniens, armés, se sont introduits de la Perse dans le Caza d'Erbac pour y fomenter des troubles, se livrer au brigandage et exciter leurs coreligionnaires établis dans le caza et dans les environs de Van. Bien que des mesures nécessaires aient été adoptées pour empêcher toute atteinte à la tranquillité dans ces parages, l'action criminelle des Aghas Arméniens venus de dehors pouvant nous être imputée insidieusement, je vous prie de vous énoncer dans le sens qui précède autour de vous.

No. 25.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 267.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 6, 1896, 12·30 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout sent me the following telegram yesterday:—

"I have to announce the arrival here yesterday, from Acre, of Bedri Bey, the new Chief of the Military Staff. Bedri Bey proceeded at once to Damascus.

"I am told on good authority that he is a strong advocate of an immediate advance of the troops, so as to restore the honour of the army by defeating the Druses in battle.

"The Acting Governor-General, on the other hand, has orders from Constantinople to do all in his power to arrive at a solution by peaceful means.

"I earnestly hope that the latter policy will be adopted, as I feel convinced that it was nothing but the cruelty and extortion practised by the late Vali of Damascus and the Military Commander in the Hauran that caused the present outbreak.

"A transport which arrived here this morning brought 400 men and 400 baggage animals from Smyrna."

No. 26.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulhek, July 6, 1896.*

THE Armenian Archbishop in Tehran reports that Persian Kurds near Salmas have massacred Armenian refugees. I can give no details, and have received no particulars from Wood.

No. 27.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 186.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 8, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 513 of the 2nd instant inclosing the paraphrase of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice relative to the situation at Birejik, and the importance of some steps being taken to insure the safety of the converts who desire to return to Christianity.

I approve the representations which you have made on the subject at the Palace and the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 28.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 517.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput on the situation at Hékim Han and Behesné.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Kharput, June 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to information received by me from Hékim Han and Behesné the condition of the Armenians in the former caza is most deplorable, whilst the situation at Behesné is by no means reassuring owing to the threatening attitude of the Kurdish tribes infesting the surrounding country.

The Hékim Han Armenians suffered heavily during the disturbances in this vilayet, and the whole of them, after being stripped of well-nigh all that they possessed, were forced to accept the Koran to escape from the sword.

Previous to the disorders at Hékim Han there were from thirty to forty Christian families living there, the surviving members of which have been hitherto prevented from reverting to their original faith, and even from speaking the Armenian language.

Their oppressors, moreover, prevent them, it appears, from leaving the caza, and even from communicating by letter with the Malattia Relief Commission, and this in spite of the terrible destitution prevailing among them.

The hardest feature, perhaps, in the lot of these Armenians, is that after embracing the Moslem creed, and daily practising the Moslem rites, they can obtain no relief from any Moslem source.

The men chiefly responsible for the unsatisfactory condition of Hékim Han are said to be:—

Karib Aga Zadé Mahmoud.
Karib Aga Zadé Hussein Bey.
Esef Aga Zadé Ali, and his brothers.
Hashim Bey Zadé Kiamil.
Jilbi Zadé Hadji Osman.

The state of the Armenians at Behesné seems rather to be one of great anxiety as regards the immediate future than of actual suffering for the present moment. At the time of the outbreak at Malattia the town of Behesné was surrounded and attacked by the Kurds. They were repulsed, however, with some loss, thanks to the energy displayed by the ex-Kaïmakam, and by certain retired army officers, of whom Yacob Pasha was the most conspicuous. The present Kaïmakam appears to be an ignorant and inefficient official, through whose influence the officers who protected the town have received a reprimand, and the greater part of the garrison has been disbanded.

The Kurds are said to be thirsting for revenge for the losses sustained by them in their attack upon Behesné, and it is to be feared that they may seize the earliest opportunity, perhaps when the people disperse to their vineyards for the vintage, for wreaking their vengeance upon the now almost defenceless Armenians. Should such be the case, the consequences, as far as the Christian population is concerned, will very probably be similar to those which ensued from the massacres at Birejik and at Hékim Han.

Shakir Pasha arrived, it seems, at Sivas to-day, whence he intends proceeding viâ Hékim Han and Malattia to Kharput. In conformity with the instructions contained in Sir Philip Currie's telegram of the 7th ultimo, I shall endeavour to meet the Imperial Commissioner at the frontier of this vilayet and accompany him to Hékim Han. I have thought it wiser, therefore, to make no representations to the Vali regarding the condition of the Armenians there lest he should suggest to Shakir Pasha to avoid passing through the caza in question.

As far as Behesné is concerned, I am urging Raüf Bey to take measures for the reinforcement of the garrison stationed in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 29.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 519.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 6, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 195 of the 7th June, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Acting Consul Alban at Jeddah, reporting the Bedouin attack at Yambo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Jeddah, June 9, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the 5th instant, the master of the French steamer "Gallia," which returned from Yambo, reported that on the previous day 2,000 or 3,000 Bedouins surrounded that town, and that some of them entered it. The troops, with the Kaïmakam of Yambo, opposed them and opened fire on them, and the Bedouins, both inside and outside the town, replied. The master further stated that he had heard that some of the soldiers and Bedouins, and a few pilgrims had been killed, and that the Kaïmakam had been seriously wounded by stones. The "Gallia left before the firing was over, as bullets were passing over her.

I was sitting with the Kaïmakam, on the evening of the 5th instant, when the Chancelier of the French Consulate brought the news, and the Kaïmakam at once endeavoured to intercept two letters for the Vali, which had arrived from Yambo, but without success. The following morning the Kaïmakam brought me a telegram received from the Vali, in which it was stated that, according to the official account, a large number of Bedouin camel-drivers were collected outside the town, the caravan for Medina being about to start. Just as the caravan was leaving the town the Bedouins attacked the military hospital, saying that the disinfectants with which the streets were sprinkled (not a disinfecting machine, as the Kaïmakam at first informed me, and as I stated in my telegram of the 6th instant) were intended "to kill people." The troops were called out and quelled the disturbance, with the loss of two men on their side, and of three on that of the Bedouins.

While the first account was perhaps somewhat exaggerated, the official report doubtless erred on the other side. The Vali thought it advisable to send reinforcements to protect the pilgrims, of whom there are large numbers there now, among them a few British Indians, and 300 troops, under the command of Colonel Ali Bey, Commandant of the Jeddah garrison, accompanied by the Grand Shereef's Kaïmakam at Mecca, Shareef Hamza El Feir, left yesterday by the Makhsoussé

steamer "Medina" for Yambo, whither the Ottoman man-of-war "Sinope" proceeded at the same time.

No further news has yet been received, there being no telegraphic communication with Yambo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 30.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 520.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 6, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 462 of the 15th June, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the exile of Druse prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Damascus, June 13, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that a few days ago two members of the Atrash family, who were of the number of those condemned to exile, and twenty-eight Druses of no particular standing were sent into exile to Tripoli of Barbary, and one of the islands (probably Rhodes).

The other thirteen Sheikhs still remain in prison, but it is stated that they are to be exiled to Broussa with their families.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 31.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 521.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 6, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 430, of the 2nd June, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, respecting the disaffection among the troops in that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, June 17, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo addressed to Sir Philip Currie, I have the honour to state that I have had full confirmation of the fact I

then reported, viz., that Edhem Pasha was uncertain of the fidelity of the troops under his command, and had demanded other troops to take their place.

Nothing was done, however, to give effect to the Pasha's request, but he was perhaps relieved of his anxiety by the departure of a considerable number of troops from Alexandretta for Crete.

It is reported here now that the military authorities have received orders to call out the Redifs again, in what numbers is not known, but it appears that the financial difficulty is as pressing as, or more pressing, than ever. One of the principal army contractors was summoned and desired to furnish supplies, but he refused until he should receive what was already due to him. In fact, both military and civil officials are at their wits' end for money, and still the exactions of Malié on the local Treasury continue unabated.

The result is that discontent is rife, and the open expression of disaffection is becoming general.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 32.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 525.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 6, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 435 of the 3rd June, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that in answer to the representations which I made to the Sublime Porte in regard to the alleged appropriation of relief money for taxes by the Turkish authorities, the Minister for Foreign Affairs states that inquiries having been made of the Vali of Mamouret-ul-Aziz, he has replied that the report was entirely unfounded, and that the collection of taxes from the distressed people had been generally delayed until they should be in a position to pay them. Nevertheless the authorities have renewed their instructions on this subject to the tax collectors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 33.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 527.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a telegram which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Aleppo with regard to the state of affairs at Aintab.

On receipt of this telegram, Mr. Block, by my instructions, brought the facts stated therein to the notice of the Grand Vizier. His Highness at once telegraphed to the Governor-General at Aleppo, asking for explanations, and instructing him to support Loutfi Pasha, if necessary, and to have the plundered goods restored to their rightful owners and the offenders punished.

The Vali was also instructed to cause an inquiry to be made with regard to the disturbances of the public peace at Aintab, and to punish those who were found guilty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Vice-Consul Cutoni to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *Aleppo, June 27, 1896.*

I AM informed from different sources that Loutfi Pasha met with serious difficulty in Aintab in recovering the stolen property of Christians, and punishing the culprits. Last Sunday night the Mahommedans there burnt considerable portion of plundered goods in their possession.

The next day they made a strong demonstration, and through all sorts of threats have compelled Loutfi Pasha to release all the Mahommedan prisoners and suspend further investigation and proceedings. I have no hesitation in saying that if strong and immediate measures are not taken by the Central Government to maintain its authority amongst as bad as possible people, the most (? serious) consequences may be anticipated.

No. 34.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 528.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout on the subject of the recent rising in the Hauran.

With regard to Mr. Drummond Hay's observations on the subject of the Vali of Damascus, I have the honour to report that that official has now been dismissed, and Hassan Pasha, who has been Vali of Bagdad for the last five years, appointed in his place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Beyrout, June 17, 1896.*

WITH reference to the accompanying despatch from Mr. Eyres of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inform you that thirty-eight Druses, two of whom belong to the Atrash family, were shipped on the 15th instant by the Ottoman steam-ship "Taif," and deported to Rhodes.

A further batch of twenty-nine arrived yesterday, and were conveyed under strong escort to the town gaol. With regard to Shibly-el-Atrash and the other Druse Sheikhs condemned to exile with their families to Broussa, letters have been addressed by them to Nessib Bey Jumblad and the Emir Mustapha Arslan, of the Lebanon, stating that they have reason to fear that the Government intend to confiscate their properties in the Hauran, providing them in exchange with land at Broussa, and they beg that they may be saved from perpetual banishment from their homes in the Hauran.

The Petitions were confidentially communicated to me by the Lebanon Chiefs, who were very anxious that the Imperial Government might be induced to mitigate the severity of the sentences, and to refrain from confiscating the lands of the exiled Sheikhs, most of whom are innocent of the charges of sedition attributed to them by the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

Beyrout, June 23, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inform you that Shibly-el-Atrash and thirteen other Sheikhs arrived here yesterday by train from Damascus, and were conveyed to the military prison on foot and handcuffed as ordinary criminal offenders.

The fresh outbreak in Djebel Hauran, as reported in Mr. Eyres' despatch of the 19th instant, is a proof that the substitution of a tyrannical military rule for the influence of the Sheikhs was a mistaken policy of the authorities.

The Druses who have now revolted belong to the south-eastern side of the mountain, and were never brought under subjection during the last campaign. Many of them had retired either to their mountain fastnesses or to the desert.

They will now probably resort to the same devices if attacked by an irresistible force of regulars.

I venture to state that under present circumstances the first step that should be taken by the Sublime Porte with the view of avoiding a repetition of the disastrous experiences of the last campaign would be the removal of the present Vali of Damascus, and the appointment in his place of a Governor who would be likely to inspire confidence amongst the population by a capable and just administration of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 35.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 529.)

Therapia, July 6, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith decyphers of two telegrams which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Jeddah, reporting the mutinous conduct of 400 time-expired soldiers at that place.

Mr. Block, at my request, called the attention of the Grand Vizier to the news contained in these two telegrams, and has been informed by His Highness, in reply, that the necessary orders would be at once sent to the authorities to satisfy the demands of the mutineers, and that a ship would be dispatched to Jeddah to take them away.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

Jeddah, June 25, 1896.

(Telegraphic.)

YESTERDAY (?) about 400 time-expired soldiers with arms occupied a mosque, where they still are. They demand to be sent home. Forces here are not sufficient to coerce them, and speedy remittance on the part of authorities necessary to avert disturbances.

Vali reported to be coming home.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Jeddah, July 2, 1896.

MY telegram of the 25th June.

Mutinous soldiers still in mosque in the centre of bazaar ( ) some alarm here.

After consultation, French Consul as doyen, asked for collective interview with Vali to-morrow morning, but latter refused on ground that it was Friday, and he was fatigued.

Disturbance likely unless prompt measures are taken.

No. 36.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 532.)

Constantinople, July 7, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput respecting the Church incident at Tchmé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Kharput, June 18, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the précis of a statement made to me by Khazar Oglou Bedros, the sole survivor from among twenty-one Armenians, the rest of whom perished in what is know here as the "Church incident."

The incident in question occurred at Tchmé, near Kharput, a few days after the outbreak of disturbances in this district

A Petition has been presented by Bedros to the Vali accusing Sheikh Gibo, Ismaïl Aga Zadé Nofal Aga, Keban Karieli Abdullah Chaush, and the Moukhtar of Tchmé, Ahmed Aga, of having been the ringleaders in the affair. The Sheikh, however, it appears, is the only one of these men who has as yet been arrested; and it is very probable that even he will be set at liberty as soon as the "isturbak," or preliminary inquiry is terminated, owing to the reluctance—through fear—of the Tchmé Armenians to give evidence against him.

Bedros, at the time I saw him, was still suffering from the effects of the wound in his head inflicted by Abdullah Chaush; and the wounds on his body were scarcely healed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Statement of Khazar Oglou Bedros.

DURING the disturbances Sheikh Gibo, of the Behermaz Nahié, accompanied by 3,000 armed men made an attack upon our village, burned the houses and shops of the Armenians, looted their goods and killed a large number of them.

Some six days after, the Moukhtar, Ahmed Aga, went round the village with a note-book in his hand, shouting, "Let all Moslems deliver up any infidels who have taken refuge with them." Thereupon my Mussulman host who had sheltered me during the massacre, told me that I must leave his house. By force of necessity, I

was compelled to go into the street where Ahmed Aga said that the Sheikh wished to see me as he had orders to give me. So I was led to the Armenian Church, at the gate of which the Sheikh was standing. He was surrounded by the persons whose names I have communicated to the authorities, together with their followers, who exclaimed when they saw me, "Ah! now we have got hold of the man we wanted!"

The Sheikh then ordered me to enter the church, where I found eighteen other Armenians. Two others were brought in soon afterwards, so that we were in all twenty-one.

The Sheikh presently entered the church, and addressed himself to us, saying, "There is an order from the Government; you will embrace Islam or else I must kill you." He then went out, and one of us was called to the door. The Sheikh asked him whether he was Christian or Moslem. He said, "I am Islam." He was at once killed by a slash over the head by the Sheikh's sabre.

Another man was then summoned to go outside. The Sheikh asked him to what religion he belonged. He answered, "I am a Christian," and was immediately murdered.

A third Armenian was then called for, and asked whether he was a Christian or a Mahommedan. He replied, "Siz Bilirsiniz"—you know best—"hitherto I have been a Christian, but am willing to accept Islam." The Sheikh slashed him also over the head, and killed him.

Several other men had been murdered in the same way, when a Turk came into the church, and walked up to me. He took me on one side, and said, "Bedros, I will save you if you will give me your watch and the money you have hidden." I at once agreed to this, and went under his escort and that of his friends to the house where my money was hidden, and gave him the watch and £T. 30. I was then brought back to the church, stepping over the corpses of some fifteen men who had already been killed at the door. The remainder were called out one by one and butchered until I and another man were the only Armenians left in the church. A voice then called for "Bedros," but I refused to obey. Some Turks came in and dragged me out, holding me by the wrists. As soon as I reached the door Abdullah Chaush struck me over the head with an axe, and Nofal Ago shot me in the side. I fell senseless upon the dead bodies. The other Armenian who had been left in the church was subsequently killed by these men.

I was dragged by the feet to a valley, where the corpses were thrown. The relations of the slain came there by night, and found me still breathing. They carried me to a cottage and tended me. After months of suffering I am convalescent, and am now in Kharput in a "state of great poverty."

No. 37.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 533.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July 7, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 232 of the 24th June, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir respecting the Committee of massacre formed by the Vali of that place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Diarbekir, June 23, 1896.*

SOON after the Vali's return from Farkin to Diarbekir, reported in my despatch of the 9th instant, an attack was made by Kurds on the Armenian village of Ghemhoke in that district on the ground that, though the inhabitants had become

Moslem at the time of the massacres, they did not observe their religious duties. The village was plundered, and five men wounded, and a woman nearly killed by a sword cut across the breasts.

Since his Excellency's return the Vali has occupied himself largely with organizing a Committee of Moslems for the purpose of getting up another massacre. I learn on good authority that the following are the members of the Committee: Jemil Pasha, ex-Governor of Yemen, Hadji Ahmed Effendi, the Mufti, Talaat Effendi, Head of the Municipality, Ahmed Towfik Effendi, Chief of Police, Abdulkader Effendi, Chief Clerk of the Cadi's Court, Hadji Sadik Effendi, Nezzi Effendi, and Jemal Pasha, General of Brigade, who is said to have been bought by the others. All these men took part in the massacre of last November, since which time the town has been in a continual state of more or less anxiety, amounting to panic, owing to the threats and intrigues of these men. Lately an active distribution of arms and gunpowder has been going on among the Turks, some of the vendors have been imprisoned by Zia Pasha, the General of Division, and there seems to be no reasonable doubt that the Vali and his Committee are only waiting for an opportunity to carry out another general massacre. In fact, I am assured that last Friday it would actually have taken place had it not been for the vigilance of Zia Pasha.

The character of the Vali appears to be perfectly well known at Constantinople, as Zia Pasha evidently has orders to control him and exercises executive powers superior to those of the Vali. As long as Zia Pasha succeeds in holding the Moslem population in check there will probably be no serious outbreak, but his health is not very good, and if he were to disappear there would not be the slightest security for any Christian, native or foreign.

The present position is therefore that the Christians of this vilayet, after being deliberately massacred, plundered, and maltreated in every conceivable way, are, after an interval of more than seven months, still kept in a perpetual state of terror and fear of further outrages by a mere caprice of the Government, for the removal of Ennis Pasha and the appointment of a decent man would undoubtedly go a long way towards tranquillizing this unfortunate province, and as long as he is here there will certainly not be anything like tranquillity. Considering all that has occurred this does not seem a very radical measure to demand, and, if it is not granted, I can only say that it shows there is no real desire on the part of the authorities for the re-establishment of order.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 38.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 534.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July 7, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, giving an account of the disorder at Niksar.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Sivas, June 27, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, from recent reports, it appears that at Niksar last Friday 37 Mussulmans and about 300 Armenians were killed. All accounts are agreed that the first shot was fired from an Armenian shop, but it is a

point unsettled whether an Armenian or a Turk in the Armenian's house fired. Whatever the immediate cause may have been, the real cause for the outbreak is that Niksar escaped last autumn, and that the officials, by whose means it was saved, received no recognition of their services, but, on the contrary, had to submit to abuse from their co-religionists. Considerable alarm is felt here at Sivas. Most of the shops are closed, the soldiers are not allowed to enter the market, and the town is patrolled day and night. I do not anticipate any disturbance here, but at Tokat an outbreak may be expected. The authorities appear to be doing their best to avert it, and no one is allowed to enter the town without first being searched, but here, as at Niksar, there has been no previous pillage, and Mustapha Pasha (the Ferik), by whose energy alone the town has been hitherto saved, has remained unrewarded, and it is therefore possible that an outbreak will occur.

The disorder that occurred at Erbaa on Saturday last, resulting in the death of two Armenians, was checked by the energy of the Kaïmakam. This Kaïmakam is himself at present *sub judice* for having written a letter, in which he expressed a wish to become a subscriber to a paper published by Murad Bey in Egypt. The letter was intercepted, and an official (the Mektoubji) has been sent from here to examine into the matter. The Cadi, I am informed, is also implicated. These men are presumably members of the so-called Turkish Revolutionary Party, which here, at Sivas, is of sufficient importance to merit notice. Its members number about forty, and some time ago were trying to arrange a code, by which to communicate with their friends in other parts of the country. What their influence may be I do not know, but they are to be reckoned with as opposed to any attempts to tranquillize the country under the existing form of government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 39.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 535.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 7, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No 252 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that to-day's "Official Gazette" contains among others the appointment of Yovanaki Effendi, a graduate of the Imperial Civil School, and formerly Kaïmakam of Youda, to be Kaïmakam of Zeitoun, and of Izzet Bey, Mudir of the Nahié of Balin, to be Moavin (Assistant) to the Kaïmakam of that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 40.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 537.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 8, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the trial of the Keghi political prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Consul Graves to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Erzeroum, June* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that eleven "political" prisoners, whose names are annexed, were recently brought to Erzeroum from Keghi, where two of their fellow prisoners had previously died in gaol, and put on their trial on the 9th instant. Seven of them have been condemned to exile for life, and two to two years' imprisonment, the two others being acquitted.

I am informed that their offence was having circulated at Keghi a letter from Erzeroum, reporting Dr. Dillon's premature telegram to the Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum to the effect that the scheme of reforms had been accepted by the Sultan, and also that a large Russian force was mobilizing on the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

List of Names.

Agog Antigian, died in Keghi prison.
Hatchadour Atamian, ditto.
Bedros Bagajian, sentenced to two years' imprisonment.
Nishan Markarian, ditto.
Ohannes Antigian, sentenced to exile for life.
Serkis Mezigian, ditto.
Abraham Krikorian, ditto.
Setrak Antoian, ditto.
Tepan Ovagimian, ditto.
Krikor Ohannesian, ditto.
Nishan Seferian, ditto.
Garabet Bayazian, acquitted.
Kharpouti Astour, ditto.

No. 41.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 538.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 8, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 367 of the 7th May, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van answering the questions respecting the execution of the Armenian reforms addressed to him in a circular on the 8th May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Major Williams to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Van, June* 7, 1896.

REFERRING to your Circular despatch of the 8th May, 1896, forwarding a paper of questions, I have the honour to report that—

Article 1. The Christian Moavin has taken up his duties. He is intrusted with the management of affairs as laid down in the "Règlement sur l'Administration des Vilayets." His appointment has been received with complete apathy by both Moslems and Christians. His relations with the Vali are most excellent, and, as far as I can ascertain, his relations with the other officials are satisfactory.

Art. 2. No Moavins have been appointed to Mussulman Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams.

Arts. 3 and 4. No Kaïmakams have been appointed since the issue of the

scheme of reforms who do not fulfil the requirements of these Articles. No Christian Kaïmakams are to be appointed in this district, and I do not think that it would be advisable to appoint any at present.

Arts. 5 and 6. Nothing so far has been done.

Arts. 7–16. Nothing has yet been done. The reformed system of nahiés involves the separation for administrative purposes of the tribal Kurds. The Vali informs me that this reform can be carried out later. I am of opinion that the state of the country does not permit of its being carried out at present.

Art. 17. The old "Conseils des Anciens" still exist.

Art. 19. The Judicial Inspectors here are both thoroughly satisfactory. Since their arrival twenty-eight prisoners have been released, among them some men from Shattakh, who have formed the subject of frequent despatches from the Embassy. These latter, I am informed, have received somewhat tardily the benefit of the amnesty. No prisoners remain who have been an unreasonable time without trial. A few minor reforms have been carried out at the instance of the Inspectors as regard prison details. The inspections promised in the Article have been made.

Arts. 21, 22, 23. Nothing has been done. No Armenians can be induced to serve, and as the finances do not admit of the police being paid, it does not seem likely that any will come forward in the near future. The Vali has done all he can to obtain recruits, offering to station them in the bazaar, &c.

Art. 24. This question depends on the formation of nahiés as detailed in Article 7.

Arts. 25 and 26. No rules are ever likely to be strictly observed in Turkey. I know of no special measures having been taken in the matter.

Art. 27. A battalion of infantry, with a police commissaire attached, has been told off to superintend the migration of the nomad Kurds. Troops and police have been sent in various directions with the object of keeping the Kurds quiet, but until one or two Chiefs are arrested and exiled there can be no security in this district. The regulations with regard to "feuilles de route" and "port d'armes" are not, and, apparently, cannot be, applied at present.

Art. 28. The officers of Hamidieh wear their uniforms, the men the distinctive cap and badge, and in some cases a sort of uniform, I believe made by themselves. All Kurds carry arms. The Hamidieh has not been called out this year from here. The judicial and civil and military authorities apparently recognize that these irregulars are amenable to the ordinary tribunals. The Kurds, however, treat a summons in most cases with absolute contempt.

Art. 29. A Commission has been named, but it seems likely to be an empty form. If it is to be anything more it should visit every village in the vilayet, and be composed of men sent for the purpose with legal knowledge and European experience.

Art. 30. Gendarmes and police are, I understand, still employed in the collection of taxes. There is no money available to carry out this reform which requires special agents. The Vali is doing what he can to get local men to collect the taxes this year.

Art. 31. The country is in such a state that it is quite impossible to carry out this reform in the current year. This being the month for the collection of the dimes.

Annex 2. I cannot ascertain that any persons now remain in prison who should have benefited by the amnesty. There are, however, many young men who have been in hiding since a period prior to its promulgation. It would be both politic and just that they should partake of its benefits. I would suggest that the Porte be approached with a view to something being done in this matter. A local Commission might be formed, say, the Moavin as President to examine into the cases of all those known to be in hiding. Those against whom nothing criminal was known or suspected might be specially pardoned by His Imperial Majesty. The effect would be to weaken the Revolutionary Party, and such clemency would do much to restore peace to the district.

Annex 3. There appears to be no difficulty as regards the return of emigrants.

Having dealt with the questions categorically, I propose now to make a few remarks on the general question of reforms.

The Vali is sincere in his wish to carry them out, both in the letter and the spirit, but most of them cost money and none is available.

Unless a considerable sum can be provided from outside sources it is idle to talk of any real reforms.

The Inspectors of Justice should travel about the country, so should the Moavin and the members of the Commission, for the revision of title deeds. There is, however, no money to pay their expenses. The special agents treated by Article 30 must be well paid and thoroughly reliable men, or they will do more harm than good. It is needless for me to multiply instances, but the mere fact that the ordinary zaptieh, who keeps himself and his horse, if mounted, in addition, is on an average nine months in arrears of his pay, renders any real execution of the reforms an impossibility. Given honest and regularly paid officials and police, many of the reforms would be superfluous. There are, however, a few points worth special consideration, more especially as they do not involve expense.

1. The Moavin has been well received here, because his rank is only a degree less than that of the Vali. It is most important that, in view of any future appointments, this matter should be considered. The Turks attach immense importance to rank. The position of a Moavin, of rank much below his chief, becomes impossible, and he is better away altogether.

2. By the new arrangements all Kaïmakams must pass through the Mulkieh School. It does not at all follow that such a training fits a man to govern in a semi-barbarous district like that of Van. Permission should be given to the Vali to recommend men conversant with local conditions, provided they have passed the examination for Kaïmakam.

3. Some serious attempt must be made to deal with the Kurds. Two or three Chiefs arrested and exiled, and the successors held responsible for their tribesmen, would immediately alter the whole situation. I understand that in the Caucasus the Kurds are the most law abiding and easily governed of the many nationalities under Russian rule, and so it might be here.

4. The two most important officers in the Armenian Church here, those of Catholicos of Akhtamar and Archbishop of Van, are vacant. They are held temporarily by two men quite unfitted for their positions. Some effort should be made in the interests of both Turks and Armenians to induce the Patriarchate to appoint, and the Porte to accept, suitable men for these and other of the high ecclesiastical posts in Anatolia. It is hard to conceive the state of degradation into which the priesthood has fallen in this province, and the effect on the people cannot be otherwise than deplorable. Two good men of enlightened views who would take their proper places as leaders of the people, appointed to these high offices, would do much to pacify the country. They would be able with the revenues of the Monasteries, which with ordinary honest management might be very large, to train and instruct the village priests, who, in their turn, might do much to educate and advise the villagers. I consider that much of the trouble of the past few years, which culminated in the horrible massacres which have taken place all over the country, is due to the suicidal policy of the Turkish Government in this respect. What wonder is it that being debarred from the advice and control of their real leaders, the people should have fallen into the hands of the Revolutionary Party. It seems hard to understand how the ridiculous ideas of an autonomous state to be formed under English auspices can ever obtain credence even in these far away districts. Such reports would never have been believed if there had been anyone the people could trust to give them intelligent and honest advice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 42.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 510.)

Therapia, July 8, 1896.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 513 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose copies of telegraphic correspondence which has passed between Mr. Fitzmaurice and this Embassy in regard to the proceedings of the Birejik Commission.

I also inclose two Memoranda by Mr. Block reporting the various representations which have been made by the Embassy during the past few days at the Porte

and the Palace, with the view of obtaining the dispatch of satisfactory instructions to the Commission.

In regard to the statement reported by Mr. Fitzmaurice in his telegram of the 7th instant that the Commission had not received any instructions for three weeks, I may mention that Mr. Block assisted in drafting the telegrams sent by the Grand Vizier to the Governor of Aleppo in regard to the action of the Kaïmakam, and actually saw His Highness dispatch it. The French Dragoman was also shown this week a telegram which had been sent by the Commission in reply to an instruction from the Palace. I will, however, again bring this matter to the notice of the Turkish authorities, and I shall not fail to do my utmost to induce them to carry out the promises made by the Sultan to Sir P. Currie.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *Birejik, July 2, 1896.*

FIFTEEN Armenian women who have expressed a desire to revert to Christianity have been prevented by the Kaïmakam from going before the Commission.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 3, 1896.*

YOUR telegram of 2nd July.

Grand Vizier again telegraphed yesterday instructing authorities to take necessary measures to protect those desiring to return to Christianity, in accordance with suggestion contained in your telegram of 25th June.

Inform Kaïmakam from me that I will bring his conduct to the notice of the Sultan.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *Birejik, July 4, 1896.*

YOUR telegram of yesterday received.

Kaïmakam denies that women demanded interview with Commission, but he admits that he dismissed them rather summarily. Very strong complaint, leading to his dismissal, perhaps undesirable just now as he understands the details of the question and his acuteness may be useful. On my repeated representations to local authorities and Vali to allow converts to leave, they demanded, and four days ago received, necessary instructions and many have already left.

I am hopeful that the examination of women will be followed by some dispersion.

Inclosure 4 in No. 42.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 5, 1896.*

YOUR telegram of yesterday.

My threat in regard to Kaïmakam was intended to help you, and I have not taken any official action on it. I am doing all I can here, and satisfactory instructions have been sent three times this week to the Commission.

Inclosure 5 in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *Birejik, July 7, 1896.*

YOUR Excellency's telegram of yesterday.

Commission declare they have not received any instructions during last three weeks, although they have informed Palace of application of women to profess Christianity here.

Inclosure 6 in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *Birejik, July 8, 1896.*

TO-DAY three Armenian men openly declared themselves Christian to Commission.

Inclosure 7 in No. 42.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 8, 1896.*

YOUR telegram received to-day.

Are there obstacles in the way of others following example of the three Armenians?

Refer your telegram of 7th.

In spite of denial of Commission, instructions have been sent to local authorities and Commission. Women having professed Christianity, what necessity is there for Commission to apply to Constantinople?

Inclosure 8 in No. 42.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

MR. FITZMAURICE'S telegram of the 25th June.

In continuation of my Memorandum of the 28th June, I have to report that with you, I spoke again on the subject to the Sultan's First Secretary at the Palace on the 29th June. The First Secretary said that the Foreign Minister had reported my observations, made on the 28th, to the Sultan; and His Majesty had given orders that the Kaïmakam should not prevent any converts desirous of leaving the town from departing. At your request, the First Secretary said he would submit to the Sultan the necessity of giving further orders to the authorities,

so that those who desired to revert to Christianity and remain at Birejik should be adequately protected. We also spoke to Izzet Bey in the same sense.

On Tuesday, the 30th, I spoke again to the Foreign Minister, who promised to submit a further request to the Sultan on the subject. His Excellency said that those who desired to leave the town might do so.

On the 2nd July I had a further long conversation on the subject with the Grand Vizier, who promised at once to telegraph to Birejik and Aleppo to the effect, that the Commission and authorities should take vigorous and effectual measures to restore confidence, so that the converts should feel perfectly safe, and at liberty to choose the religion they preferred, and should take measures to protect those who reverted to Christianity whilst remaining at Birejik.

I also spoke of the necessity of giving every protection to Mr. Fitzmaurice, adding that Lord Salisbury had telegraphed on the subject, and that it was most important that nothing untoward should happen to Mr. Fitzmaurice on this most difficult and thankless mission.

His Highness telegraphed repeating former orders, and instructing the authorities to give [Mr. Fitzmaurice a sufficient escort and guard to prevent molestation.

July 3, 1896.

Inclosure 9 in No. 42.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

I HAD a further conversation with the Grand Vizier yesterday concerning the Birejik converts.

I told him, confidentially, of the conduct of the Kaïmakam, as reported by Mr. Fitzmaurice in his telegram of the 2nd, viz., that that official had declined to allow fifteen Armenian women who had desired to return to Christianity to go before the Commission.

I also informed his Highness, confidentially, of your reply to Mr. Fitzmaurice to the effect that he should tell the Kaïmakam that you would bring his conduct to the knowledge of the Sultan. I added, however, that Mr. Fitzmaurice would be able to make use of this instruction to bring the Kaïmakam to a proper sense of his duty, and that for the moment you had made no official complaint against that official, as if the latter learned that Mr. Fitzmaurice had complained of him he might put obstacles in Mr. Fitzmaurice's way. I suggested that the Kaïmakam might, nevertheless, be instructed to take especial care in the case of any of the converts desiring to revert to Christianity to see that no hindrance was placed in their way, and to bring the fact to the notice of the Commission.

His Highness sent the telegram as desired. I suggest that Mr. Fitzmaurice should be informed.

July 5, 1896.

No. 43.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 543. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a communication signed by "les Arméniens de la Turquie," which has been left at this Embassy, and in which it is stated that the Armenians, weary of their sufferings, are determined to free themselves from Turkish tyranny, and that they repudiate any responsibility for the consequences of the measures which they may adopt to bring about that end.

I understand that a similar letter has been addressed to the French, Russian, and Italian Embassies here.

Although this is only an anonymous communication, I fear from other information received at this Embassy that there are some grounds for apprehending a fresh movement on the part of the Armenian Revolutionary Committees in this country, and the insurrection of Van would seem to prove that they are already commencing operations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Letter addressed to Sir P. Currie.

Constantinople, le Juillet, 1896.

Excellence,

LES soussignés Arméniens de la Turquie, las des persécutions continuelles et des mesures vexatoires que, contre toute équité, le Gouvernement Ottoman ne cesse de prendre contre eux, las de souffrir toutes les tortures alors que promesse solonnelle à été faite de leur accorder les réformes que nécessite leur douloureuse situation, émus des récents massacres signalés à Van, viennent par le présente informer votre Excellence que plus que jamais ils sont décidés par tous moyens quelconques à s'affranchir de la tyrannie qui les écrase, et déclarent formellement que le Gouvernement seul reste responsable de l'extrémité où ils sont poussés, qu'il lui incombe responsabilité des mesures qui pourront être prises par les Arméniens, et qu'ils rejétent, d'ores et déjà les conséquences possibles de leur désespoir sur leur odieuse oppresseurs.

(Signé) Les Arméniens de la Turquie.

No. 44.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 544.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 9, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 267 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a telegram which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout on the subject of the Druse rising in the Hauran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *Beyrout, July* 8, 1896.

THE Druse Kaïmakam of the Lebanon, who lately went to Damascus to confer officiously with Commander-in-chief, informed me that he wrote, with the latter's approval, urging the Druses to withdraw from Suedah before the troops advance, and to memorialize authorities of Damascus, assuring them of their loyalty, and sueing for an amnesty and a just investigation of the incidents that led to the disturbances.

It is now reported here that this advice has been adopted by the Druses. If a Commission of Inquiry be appointed some of its members should be [two groups undecypherable] Druses.

No. 45.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 545.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 9, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 120 of the 3rd instant, and to my telegram No. 264 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. Block, reporting a conversation which he had with the Grand Vizier on the 4th instant in regard to the dismissal of the Vali of Diarbekir.

At an interview with Izzet Bey, the Sultan's Second Secretary, a few days ago, he informed me, in the course of conversation, that the Sultan, as a proof of the friendly feelings which His Majesty entertained towards England and Her Majesty's Embassy, had given orders that all our claims should be examined at once, and that if I would send a list of them to the Palace their settlement would be expedited. I desired Izzet Bey to express my most respectful thanks to His Majesty, and stated that I hoped that as a further proof of his goodwill His Majesty would comply with my request for the dismissal of Ennis Pasha I again pointed out that this request was made solely in the interests of His Majesty, and with the desire to help the Ottoman Government, and that I could not understand why the advice of Her Majesty's Embassy in regard to this matter was so persistently disregarded. After a long discussion, during which Izzet Bey used much the same arguments as those employed by the Grand Vizier in his conversation with Mr. Block, he left the room to communicate my message to the Sultan. On his return he informed me somewhat curtly that he had mentioned my request to His Majesty, and that nothing could be done until an inquiry had been instituted into Ennis Pasha's conduct. I remarked to Izzet Bey that if my request was treated in this manner I feared that the assurances and protestations of friendship with which he had commenced the conversation did not mean very much, and the subject then dropped.

The language used by Izzet Bey and the Grand Vizier in regard to this question is the reverse of encouraging, but on the other hand, Tewfik Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has told me on two separate occasions this week that he thought that Ennis Pasha would shortly be removed, and I understand that his Excellency has held out similar hopes to M. Cambon, who has also been pressing the matter. Still, Tewfik Pasha's language is due rather to a desire to be agreeable than to any knowledge that the Sultan intends to give way on this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Mr. Block to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *July 5, 1896.*

IN accordance with your request, I brought to the notice of the Grand Vizier yesterday Lord Salisbury's telegram of the 3rd instant concerning the Vali of Diarbekir. His Highness stated that Her Majesty's Government and Her Majesty's Embassy were absolutely mistaken in thinking Ennis Pasha was a bad Governor. All the abuse which had been cast on this official was owing to the hostility of the Armenian Dragoman of the French Consulate. The reports which the Porte had received from Abdullah Pasha, the Sultan's Commissioner, and other independent sources here, were to the effect that Ennis Pasha had done nothing worthy of dismissal.

I said that Mr. Hallward's accounts were very bad, that he did not take his information from the French Consular Dragoman; he could see for himself that the Vali was unfit, and, as the Grand Vizier still declined to give way on the question, I added, in accordance with your instructions, that if Her Majesty's Government gave this advice it was from a desire to serve the Sultan and the Ottoman Government, and it was regrettable that the Porte should turn a deaf ear to such friendly counsels. It was discouraging in the last degree to see that the Porte wilfully ignored the faithful

and accurate descriptions given by Her Majesty's Consular officers in the provinces who had no interest in inventions or exaggerations, and preferred to accept the more plausible and comforting assurances of the officials complained of, who had every interest in stating that their conduct was immaculate and the state of their province flourishing.

After again urging him to reconsider the advisability of removing Ennis Pasha, which was not such a great concession after all, and would have been granted at once were the Porte sincere in its protestations of friendship to England, I added that the country to suffer would be Turkey if anything happened at Diarbekir, for which the whole responsibility would rest with Ennis Pasha and the Porte.

His Highness maintained his refusal to advocate the removal of the Vali.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

No. 46.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 277.)
(Telegraphic) P. *Constantinople, July 13, 1896.*

I HAVE received a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice stating that the Armenian families still remaining in Birejik, 110 in all, declared themselves Christian yesterday, the other 120 families having already fled from the place.

No 47.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 278.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 13, 1896, 3·15 P.M.*

I AM being pressed by Izzet Bey for an answer to the Sultan's message in regard to the Armenians, which I telegraphed to your Lordship in my telegram No. 247 of the 29th June. His Majesty is anxious that your Lordship should make a declaration or express an opinion to the effect that the continued Armenian agitation is regarded with disfavour by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 48.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 281.)
(Telegraphic,) P. *Constantinople, July 13, 1896, 5 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus:—

"On the 11th instant, after two hours' fighting, the troops advanced, and raised the blockade of Suedah."

No. 49.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July 14, 1896.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 278 of the 13th instant reporting that Izzet Bey is pressing for a reply to the Sultan's message in regard to the Armenians,

you may state that all the communications of Her Majesty's Government with respect to the Armenian question have been with the Ottoman Government or their officers. Her Majesty's Government have opened no communications with the Armenians and have no means of doing so.

No. 50.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 547.) *Constantinople, July 11, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, respecting the discovery of arms, &c., at Samsoun.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Trebizond, July 2, 1896.*

AS a supplement to my despatches of the 11th and 26th ultimo, I beg leave to give the following substance of a telegram to the Vali from the Mutessarif of Samsoun.

The two Armenians captured near Charshamba had, in their examination, denounced, as the importers of arms and seditious papers, two Armenian clerks at Samsoun, known respectively as Ovaghim, of the Russian Steam-ship Company, and Artin, of the Messageries Maritimes Company. Although at the agencies searched by Russian and French Consular officers nothing very compromising was found in the houses of the two individuals who are now under arrest, several revolvers and rifles and a quantity of revolutionary documents were discovered by the police.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 51.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 549.) *Constantinople, July 11, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum which I have received from Mr. Block, First Dragoman to this Embassy, respecting Shahbaz Effendi.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

(Confidential.)

SHAHBAZ EFFENDI, a member of the Criminal Section of the Court of Cassation, has been transferred to the Civil Section of that Court.

Shahbaz Effendi is a very highly-educated and upright official. He is an Armenian by birth, and some years ago, owing to a quarrel with the Patriarch with regard to divorce proceedings, he became a Moslem. He is a distinguished jurist, and

a man of independent character. He has never ceased to befriend his former Armenian co-religionists, in striving to obtain for them justice under most difficult circumstances, and on many occasions has been of signal use to this Embassy in preventing the miscarriage of justice in his Court in cases where Armenian subjects were condemned on illegal and insufficient grounds. In fact, his influence has always been used in the interests of justice and humanity. He is a man of liberal ideas and of advanced opinions, which he has not feared to express in Turkish circles.

He informs me confidentially that his transfer to the Civil Section of the Court is due to the fact that the President of the Criminal Section has reported to the Palace that he was prepared to carry out all the orders that he received from the Palace without the slightest difficulty, provided that Shahbaz Effendi was removed from his section, as Shahbaz was the man who rendered his task difficult by the opposition he caused, and which, owing to Shahbaz's influence, was followed by other members. It would seem as if there is some dirty business to do at the Criminal Section regarding the Armenians, and Shahbaz's presence there is inconvenient.

Shahbaz Effendi is the person who was referred to by the Sultan in a conversation with Sir P. Currie as an example of a convert to Islam, in whom His Majesty had, on principle, no confidence. This was subsequently published in the Blue Book, and upon reading His Majesty's observation, Shahbaz asked for explanations. His Majesty denied ever having said anything of the sort; but Shahbaz said the observation had been made public, and under the circumstances he, having lost the confidence of the Sultan, must request permission to leave the country. Shahbaz added that, if the remark was never made, the Sultan might publicly deny it, which His Majesty, however, was unwilling to do. The Sultan, in fact, is in a dilemma. As Caliph, he is open to severe criticism for having stated he had no confidence in a convert to Islam; but his observation to Sir Philip is published to the world, and he has gained credit in Europe for being a liberal-minded Moslem and averse to conversions. The question between Shahbaz and the Sultan is still pending, and the former persists in his request to be allowed to leave the country unless he obtains a moral satisfaction. I am afraid that Shahbaz will go to the wall.

July 9, 1896.

No. 52.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 550.) *Constantinople, July 11, 1896.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 538 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting on the bad situation of the vilayet and the necessity for the dismissal of the Vali.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Diarbekir, June 30, 1896.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch of the 5th instant, embodying the reply of the Sublime Porte on the subject of Hadji Reshid Aga's return to Silonan.

The general situation here caused by the Vali's conduct in this and other cases is very bad. Last Friday there was again a most serious panic caused by fear of massacre in the town, and I have it on good Mussulman authority that a massacre was in preparation and would have been carried out had not Zia Pasha, the Ferik, prevented it by parading the streets with troops. I have previously mentioned

various Turks as promoters of trouble, but I am now convinced that if the Vali were removed and replaced by a decent man, the other Turks would remain quiet.

It may be thought that these constant panics after all do not do much harm so long as no one is killed, but unfortunately they have had a bad effect throughout the vilayet in maintaining a continuous feeling of insecurity and uncertainty as to what the intentions of the Government really are towards the Christians. There can be no doubt that the Kurds and lower-class Turks think they may be called on at any time to make another attack on the Christians, and this idea is naturally shared by the latter, so that a resettlement of the peasants on their lands is practically impossible, and even the resumption of ordinary business is difficult under present circumstances. Indeed, no real effort in this direction is made by Government, and much of the money distributed for relief goes straight to the tax-collector, so that the position of the Christians has practically made no progress towards improvement since the massacres.

I need not expatiate on the short-sightedness of this policy, but I cannot help thinking that the money given for relief would really be better employed in assisting emigration, could the recipient's safe exit from the country be secured, as the future of the Christians of this district is certainly hopeless in the extreme.

A few of the women and girls abducted by Kurds have been recovered, but that the Government does not exert much energy in this matter is shown by the fact that there are still in the hands of the Kurds seventy-one women, girls, and children from the village of Kitterbil, which is just opposite Diarbekir on the other side of the Tigris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 53.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 551.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus concerning the outbreak in the Hauran and the consequent dismissal of the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Damascus, June 25, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to state that, so far as can be ascertained, the Druses have done nothing beyond continuing the siege of Suedah.

The reinforcements are pouring into the Hauran, going straight through by rail from Beyrout to Sheikh Meskin. It would thus seem that the Druses have lost their opportunity. The Haurani Moslems are said to have been persuaded by the local authorities to remain quiet, but though overtures were made to the Slût Arabs with a view to separating them from the Druses, and thus preventing the Druses from retiring to the Ledja, the Arabs have so far returned evasive answers.

Two days ago Sheikh Shibli and the twelve other Sheikhs who were in prison were quietly sent off into exile. Their destination is uncertain, but it is stated that Broussa or Samsoun is to be their place of residence. The authorities feared, I think, an attack on Damascus, which might have been successfully effected, as the place was totally denuded of troops.

Yesterday evening Tahir Pasha arrived without any notice except a telegram from Beyrout, and installed himself as Mushir of the 5th Army Corps. The Vali was considerably put out by this unexpected incident, for hitherto, having been Mushir himself and the Commandant being only a Ferik, he had great influence in the military councils.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Damascus, June 30, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report, for your information, that, as far as I can discover, there is no change in the situation in the Hauran. The officials of the vilayet state that the Druses have retired to the Ledja; on the other hand, private reports are to the effect that they still besiege Suedah.

Many battalions have passed through Damascus by rail without stopping, direct for the Hauran, and I am not at present able to state the number accurately, but it is reckoned that there are now sixteen battalions assembled at the head-quarter camp, which is at Sheikh Meskin. It is stated that an advance is likely to be made to-day towards Suedah.

Yesterday, without previous warning, the Vali of Beyrout, Nassouhi Bey, arrived here, and took up his post as Acting Vali until the new Governor-General should arrive. The dismissal of Osman Nouri Pasha, which has thus become an accomplished fact, is only a cause for general rejoicing, but is important from the fact that, if the Sublime Porte be so disposed, it opens up a possibility of settling the Druse question peaceably.

As long as his Excellency held his post, the great influence which he possessed at Constantinople, or at least with which he has always been credited, enabled him to govern despotically according to his desires, and as his main idea was to turn all matters to his own profit, no final solution of any important question on a basis of justice and moderation was possible.

The Druses lately addressed letters to various high officials, to the Vali, the Mushir, and others, making a clear statement of their case, and declaring that they had been driven to rise by the brutal ill-treatment to which they were subjected. (This ill-treatment is certainly a true indictment, and was without doubt carried to excess, especially with regard to the violation of women by the zaptiehs and soldiers.) They then demanded an inquiry, stating that they were willing that guilty persons should be punished if their grievances were redressed. So far as I can learn, no answer was returned to their petitions.

It appears from the above letters that the Druses are not prepared to fight the matter out to the bitter end, and that their courage has again failed them. I venture, therefore, to suggest that it would be advisable for the Imperial Ottoman Government to enter into negotiations with the Druses, as it seems probable that such negotiations would have a successful issue. At present there is no sign that any methods but that of force are to be employed, and in military circles it is asserted that the force in the Hauran is to be raised to fifty battalions. The waste of men and money which will be incurred on this expedition is deplorable, and appears to me to be totally unnecessary. Seeing the financial straits to which the Ottoman Government is reduced, it may fairly be hoped that on this account alone, if for no more humane reasons, gentler counsels may prevail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 54.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 552.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 13, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, giving details as to the probable origin of the recent revolt of the Druses, and reporting the departure of Nessouhi Bey to act as Governor-General of Damascus pending the arrival of Hassan Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Beyrout, June 29, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Nessouhi Bey received telegraphic instructions late last night to proceed immediately to Damascus as Acting Governor-General until the arrival of Hassan Pasha from Bagdad, who is to replace Osman Pasha.

His Excellency started by this morning's train, leaving the Commandant of Beyrout in charge of his post.

Judging from a conversation I had with Nessouhi Bey on the subject of Djebel Druse, I feel sure that if his counsels prevail the military authorities will succeed in restoring order and in occupying the district where the disturbances occurred without any serious opposition.

I have reliable information that a considerable portion of the Djebel Hauran Druses are loyal, and have sent 500 sheep and other provisions to the beleaguered garrison at Suedah.

According to accounts that have reached me from fugitives in the Lebanon, Memdouh Pasha, commanding the troops of Djebel Hauran, is accused of having brought about the recent occurrences by an attempted abduction of Druse women, and especially of a niece of Shibly-el-Atrash, known as the "belle" of Djebel Hauran, whom he sought to secure for his son's harem. The dispatch of a body of police to seize a Druse who had fired at a Bedouin was a mere pretext for intimidating the villagers who were concealing the girl.

It is also stated that when the troops subsequently arrived, several Elders came forward suing for a peaceful understanding; but they were fired at, and many Druses were killed before they rose and so successfully defended themselves. If the disturbances had been premeditated, the Druses would not have stirred until after the harvest; but the fact that their crops were all standing at the time shows that there was no plot against the authorities.

They must have been driven to desperation to act as they did, and it is not probable that they attacked the police with such savagery on account of a miserable shepherd.

There is nothing that the Druses resent more deeply than any insult to their women, and they have always been known to respect the women and young children of their enemies in warfare.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Beyrout, July 7, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47 of the 29th June, I have received further information from Djebel Hauran through reliable channels in the Lebanon.

The Druses in general complain that since the cessation of hostilities last winter the terms of peace have not been kept. Circassians and Kurds have been placed over them, and taxes unjustly enforced. Their Chiefs have been exiled and several leading men seized on the pretence of employing them for military service.

Their especial complaint, however, is the treatment to which their women have been subjected.

The person referred to in my above-mentioned despatch was married to a nephew of the late Kaïmakam, Shibly-el-Atrash, and resided at Orman. Her husband being in prison, she went personally to Memdouh Pasha petitioning for his release.

The Pasha received her well, and made proposals that she should become his wife. Remembering the fate of another Druse woman, to whom a similar offer had been made, and who had been forcibly sent to a harem in Damascus, she feigned consent, but stipulated that she should be allowed ten days to collect her dresses and jewels, &c.

On her failing to appear at the fixed time, Memdouh Pasha took advantage of a quarrel between a Druse and a Bedouin at Orman to send a detachment of police to the village.

Finding that the Druse had escaped, they demanded Atrash's niece. The Sheikh replied that she had left the village and could not be found.

A quarrel then ensued, in which the Sheikh was taken prisoner, and five Druses were shot. The villagers then retaliated, killing all the police and rescuing their Sheikh. When the troops subsequently attacked them, the niece of El-Atrash placed herself at the head of the Druses and led them to the victory they gained on that occasion.

She then took them to the fortress of Suedah, and succeeded in cutting off the garrison's water supply.

This heroic woman was slightly wounded in the elbow during the fight.

The Druses have, in my opinion, behaved as a proud and brave people, exasperated by tyranny and oppression, and finally driven to reckless deeds by the attempts of the authorities to dishonour their families.

I am persuaded that an impartial inquiry into the state of affairs throughout the Hauran since the last campaign would result in an exposure of the villainous conduct of the Government officials employed there, and prove that the enormous expenditure incurred by the mobilization of the Redifs, and the losses the country at large will sustain by the withdrawal of so many hands at harvest time, might have been spared if the Sublime Porte had not been misled by false and exaggerated reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 55.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 555.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 13, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 540 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that, Mr. Fitzmaurice having again telegraphed that the Commission at Bircjik had not yet received any instructions, in spite of the assurances given to me at the Palace, I requested Mr. Block to draft a telegram to Mr. Fitzmaurice in Turkish, to be sent to him *en clair*, giving the text of the Sultan's Iradé, which was communicated to the Embassy on the 13th May last, and to send it to the Sultan's First Secretary to be submitted for His Majesty's approval.

I have the honour to inclose translations of this telegram, and of the letter addressed by Mr. Block to the Sultan's First Secretary.

Mr. Block had an interesting conversation on the following day with the First Secretary, the details of which are given in the inclosed Memorandum. According to the news received to-day from Mr. Fitzmaurice, which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship in my telegram No. 277 of to-day, it would seem that this last representation at the Palace has not been without its effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Translation.) [*Undated.*]
(Telegraphic.)

IN order that you may be acquainted with the real meaning of the instructions received by the Birejik Commission, I subjoin as follows the full text of the Sultan's Iradé, communicated to Her Majesty's Embassy on the 13th May last:—

1. The Sultan has ordered that the Redifs should be replaced by regular troops.

2. The Commission of Inquiry at present at Marash will at once be ordered to proceed to Birejik and to inquire into the matter of the church converted into a mosque under the name of the Hamidieh Mosque, and should it still be found to be a mosque, it will be restored to its former condition, and handed over to the Christian community.

3. Orders have been given that the Commission is not to leave Birejik until the converts are able to express their real intentions, and can profess whatever faith they wish in safety.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Mr. Herbert to the Sultan's First Secretary.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to a telegram received to-day by Her Majesty's Embassy from Mr. Fitzmaurice, the British Consular officer at present at Birejik, fifteen Armenian women, being desirous of reverting to Christianity, have applied to the Commission for that purpose, but the Commission has alleged that they are without instructions with regard to these persons or the other converts, and stated that they had applied to the Palace for instructions. This statement of the Commission has filled Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires with surprise and regret, and he begs that the matter may be submitted to His Majesty, and categorical orders given to remove the hesitation of the Commission. I am further instructed by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to submit to His Majesty's approval the inclosed draft of a telegram which it is proposed to address to Mr. Fitzmaurice, and to request that I may be informed whether His Majesty approves of it.

Inclosure 3 in No. 55.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

IN accordance with your instructions I wrote a letter to the Sultan's First Secretary, translation inclosed.

On the following day, the 9th instant, having received no answer to my communication, I called at the Palace and saw the First Secretary and Izzet Bey. They informed me that my letter had been submitted to His Majesty, and that it would not be advisable for various reasons to send the proposed telegram in Turkish to Mr. Fitzmaurice. I suggested that as they seemed to fear that the telegraph clerks might give publicity to the telegram you would be willing that the Palace should cypher the telegram to the Commission, instructing them to communicate it to Mr. Fitzmaurice. To this also they demurred. After a long discussion, during which I pointed out how unsatisfactorily the Commission was working and how necessary it was to settle this question definitely in the interests of the Sultan himself, the two officials declared that instructions had

been repeatedly sent to the Commission, and that recently with regard to the fifteen Armenian women mentioned by Mr. Fitzmaurice, as having desired to revert to Christianity, the Commission having stated their intention of confirming this reconversion, the Palace had approved their proceedings and had instructed them to follow the same course with regard to others desirous of reverting to their original faith.

I did not fail to urge the desirability of taking fresh action upon my letter, and I reminded them of the interest taken in England in the House of Commons and the press, and I read to them Lord Salisbury's despatch of the 17th June, but they declined to admit the necessity of sending further instructions at this juncture. Finally, I wrote down in their presence the following draft of a telegram to Mr. Fitzmaurice, which they approved of, and they promised that if Mr. Fitzmaurice replied that there was further difficulty they would be prepared to put the matter straight:—

"Reiterated and categorical instructions have been given to the Commission to permit any one who pleases to revert to Christianity, and to assure them security for life, honour, and property.

"Communicate with Commission."

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

July 12, 1896.

No. 56.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 562.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 15, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 527 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Aleppo, giving further details of Lutfi Pasha's action at Aintab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Acting Consul Catoni to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Aleppo, July* 1, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 64 of the 27th ultimo regarding the deplorable state of affairs at Aintab, I have now the honour to transmit to your Excellency the following details which I have gathered from various trustworthy sources:—

The newly-appointed Ferik of the Redifs at Aleppo, his Excellency Lutfi Pasha, having lately been instructed to proceed to Aintab, in order to recover the property of the Christians stolen during the massacres of November last, and to secure the proper punishment of the culprits, on his arrival there first called many of the Moslem Notables, and, it is said, he has given them very impressive lectures, setting forth the great solicitude of the Sovereign for the welfare of all his beloved people, assuring them that Christians and Moslems are alike dear to him, and that it is very wrong to kill and plunder Christians; and that those who have done this must be found and punished, and especially that all the goods plundered from Christians must be immediately found and returned to their rightful owners, &c. Then, by his order, a considerable number of houses have been searched, and some plunder found; and where stolen property was found, the responsible inmates of the house were arrested and imprisoned, though no prominent persons have been dealt with. Considerable excitement and indignant protests have been indulged in by many of the Moslems, as if this activity on the part of the Government was a piece of bad faith.

On Sunday night, the 21st June, quite a movement started among the guilty ones to burn or throw into the streets plundered goods in their possession. The next day there was a general panic, and the Moslems made a strong demonstration, and through all sorts of threats they have compelled Lutfi Pasha to release all the Mussulman prisoners, and to suspend further investigations and proceedings. It is

now reported that, since then, his Excellency has altogether changed his behaviour with the anti-Christian party, and begun to accept their invitations and banquets. On the other hand, the Christians and the few pro-Christian Moslems are very much depressed, and it is asserted that, at present, there is at Aintab much less feeling of security than before the Ferik's visit. This may be easily explained by the fact, that the apathy and weakness shown by the authorities before the threats uttered by the Moslems of Aintab will of course encourage and embolden them to repeat the horrors of last November; and I cannot but regret this new situation, which has been created by Lutfi Pasha's wrong action, considering it as being extremely dangerous for the Christians of Aintab and elsewhere, unless strong and immediate measures are taken by the Central Government to restore its authority among these people, whose main object is evidently the destruction of Christians and the appropriation of their fortune.

I also learn with regret that Hussein Pasha, the very man of the Ourfa massacres, has been reinstated in his post. It is needless to say that the Armenians are exceedingly alarmed by the return of this official to Ourfa.

I must add, finally, that very disquieting news reaches here from Adiyaman to the effect, that the soldiers having been sent away Christians are being threatened and intimidated almost every day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI.

No. 57.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 563.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 15, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 248 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput reporting the state of alarm existing among the Armenian population of that town owing to the departure of a battalion of troops to quell the disturbances on the Persian frontier.

I propose to bring the contents of these two despatches to the notice of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Kharput, June 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that a battalion of troops started from Kharput yesterday and proceeded, the Vali informs me, to the Persian frontier, owing to the rumour of incursions having been made into Turkish territory by armed Armenian bands from the frontier in question.

A Turkish officer here has informed me that a Captain and nine of his men were murdered a few days ago by Armenians from Persia in the course of a raid made by the latter upon the Ottoman border. I have no means, however, of verifying the grounds for his assertion.

At Kharput there now remains one battalion of infantry, one-half of which is quartered at Mezreh, where the Government House, Law Courts, and barracks are situated and the other half in the town of Kharput itself.

The Armenians are at the present moment in a state of great anxiety owing to a report of serious disturbances having occurred at Van. They seem to fear that the fact of the withdrawal of a part of the local garrison may serve as a signal for the Dersim Kurds to make another inroad upon the town and the neighbouring villages.

I have laid the matter before the Vali, who tells me that there are no grounds for uneasiness as the battalion referred to will shortly be replaced, and that the Kurds are now peacefully inclined and have settled down to their ordinary avocations.

From all that I have heard with regard to the recent disturbance here the inference which may reasonably be drawn as to any eventual action of the neighbouring Kurdish tribes would appear to be that, unless invited by the authorities, they would scarcely venture to attack this town. These tribes are said, however, to have retained, in many instances, the Martinis distributed among them previous to their incursion, and to harbour, for some reason or other, considerable rancour against the Turkish authorities in general. If such be really the case, it would perhaps be expedient that the hands of the Vali and Commandant be strengthened by the timely arrival of troops to fill the place of those who have just vacated the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Kharput, June 30, 1896.

WITH reference to my confidential despatch of the 24th ultimo and to my telegram of yesterday's date, reporting the departure from Kharput of a battalion of troops and the uneasiness prevailing in the town, I now have the honour to report that since the former date the alarm has increased almost to a panic owing to rumours of disturbances at Tokat, Amassia, and elsewhere, and to the incessant menaces of the Turks.

The Armenians, it appears, have begun to move into the town from their vineyards for safety, and many of them are preparing for flight at any moment. In Kharput itself certain Turks have warned Armenians that an attack will be made upon them in a few days' time, and similar threats have been uttered in Mezreh.

I called upon the Vali yesterday and had a long conversation with him. I invited his very serious attention to the terror of the local Christians and to the hostile attitude of the Turks; to the advisability of replacing the battalion which left a few days ago by regular troops instead of reserves well known to have taken a leading part in the last disturbance.

I then suggested to him that extra patrols should be put on duty in the town of Kharput, and that orders should be issued to the Alai Bey in command there to be very vigilant himself and to see that his men were vigilant in their duty during the next few days.

And I urged Raüf Bey to request the two Muftis of Kharput, who are greatly respected throughout a considerable portion of Asia Minor, to use their influence over their Moslem fellow citizens in the name of humanity in general, in which case there would be but little cause to fear for the lives of the Armenians here.

I also pointed out to the Vali the peril to which the American missionaries would be exposed in the event of a fanatical outbreak, and demanded that instant measures should be taken for their effectual protection. I requested that orders should be given to the officer in command at Kharput to appoint a body of troops to be ready upon any emergency to protect the Mission buildings and school; and I reminded him that he would incur a very grave responsibility should anything happen to any one of the Mission staff.

In reply, Raüf Bey said that he regretted to hear of the uneasiness prevailing, but assured me "from his heart" that, if the Armenians remained quiet, there was absolutely nothing to be feared on their behalf; that they should not allow themselves to be influenced by foolish threats, but should peacefully continue their ordinary pursuits; that he himself would undertake to be responsible for any movement on the part of the Turks; and that the reserves were to be armed for their annual manœuvres, and were in no way intended to replace the regular troops for the protection of the town.

The Governor-General promised, however, to order the military and police authorities to take every possible measure towards ensuring the peace, and to

admonish the Muftis in the sense I had suggested. He promised, moreover, to give orders for a strong guard to be placed at the disposal of the missionaries for their personal protection.

After taking leave of the Vali I went to Kharput to visit Mr. Gates. Whilst returning to Mezreh, I met the Alai Bey and some zaptiehs, armed with Martinis, on their way to that town under orders to carefully guard the Mission buildings. Four Coljis have been arrested for threatening Armenian women.

The authorities are sincere, I think, in their desire to prevent an outbreak. But the Turks and Kurds, having once been permitted to engage in massacre and pillage, require severe measures now to restrain them from molesting the Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 58.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 564.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 15, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 517 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput reporting the result of the Vali's inquiries into the situation at Behesné.

I have instructed Mr. Block to represent to the Sublime Porte the necessity of strengthening the garrison in that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Kharput, June 26, 1896.*

IN continuation of my Confidential despatch of the 10th instant relative to the state of affairs prevailing at Hékim Han and Behesné, I have the honour to report that the Vali, to whom I described the situation in the latter town, has now communicated to me the result of his inquiries as to the number of troops stationed there, and to the attitude of the Kurds.

The Reserves called out for service in that caza during the disturbances in the vilayet have been disbanded; but, in addition to the gendarmerie force, there are forty soldiers under arms in Behesné itself, and these would amply suffice, the Vali assures me, to repel any attack that might be made by the Kurds.

Raüf Bey thinks, moreover, that any such attack is extremely improbable, as the Kurdish tribes have received warning that any lawlessness on their part will draw severe punishment upon them.

The Vali may very likely be justified in considering that the small detachment of troops quartered at Behesné are all that is required for its defence; half that number, even, would probably suffice to overawe a whole tribe of Kurds were the men efficient and their officer trustworthy and energetic. But, in order that the authorities may have no excuse to offer for any disturbance that might take place in the neighbourhood, it would be well, perhaps, could the Behesné garrison be raised to a force of 100 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 59.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 567.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 15, 1896.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 540 of the 8th instant, and with reference to my despatch No. 556 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, paraphrases of telegrams which have passed between Mr. Fitzmaurice and myself in regard to the proceedings of the Commission at Birejik. I intend to-morrow to personally request the Minister for Foreign Affairs to convey my thanks to the Sultan for what has been done, and I shall take this opportunity of asking that measures may be taken for the security of the persons who have reverted to Christianity after the departure of the Commission from Birejik. I will also endeavour to have the necessary instructions sent in regard to the other villages mentioned by Mr. Fitzmaurice, and, at the same time, request that the Reserves should be replaced by regular troops, in accordance with the Sultan's promise to Sir P. Currie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) P. *July 10, 1896.*

MR. BLOCK has been informed that a telegram was sent about the fifteen Armenian women by the Commission, which was instructed, in reply, that they were to consider these women as Christians, and that they should follow the same action in respect to others who desire to revert.

The Palace have assented to the following instructions being sent by me to you, which you should communicate to Commission:—

"The Commission has been repeatedly and categorically ordered to allow any one who desires to become Christian to do so, and to guarantee the security of their property, their honour, and their lives."

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Birejik, July 12, 1896.*

WITH reference to your two telegrams of the 8th and 10th instant respectively, no instructions have been received by the Commission from the Palace, but the Porte has sent instructions to local authorities. The lukewarm attitude of latter is the cause of the hesitation of the remaining Armenians. Their fear is the result of previous massacre and the menaces of the Mussulmans of the lower class who threaten to massacre them if they return to Christianity.

(Secret and Confidential.)

The action of the three Armenians and the women was taken by my secret advice, and I shall I hope induce the remainder in the same way to declare to-day that they are Christians.

Inclosure 3 in No. 59.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

Birejik, July 12, 1896.

(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to my previous telegram of to-day, the whole of the remainder of the Armenian community, consisting of 110 houses, declared themselves Christians. The other 120 houses having already fled.

Inclosure 4 in No. 59.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

July 13, 1896.

(Telegraphic.) P.

IN reply to your telegram of the 12th instant, accept my congratulations on the success that you have so far achieved.

What steps have been taken with regard to the church at Birejik?

Inclosure 5 in No. 59.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

Birejik, July 14, 1896.

(Telegraphic.) P.

IN reply to your telegram of the 13th, please accept my thanks for your congratulations, but it is to your very energetic action that my success is due.

The church has been given back to the Armenians. Priests are being brought here at my instigation, and I expect that the fugitive Armenians will come back, and that the villagers in the neighbourhood with whom I am in communication will return to Christianity very soon.

Cannot the Sublime Porte send instructions to Rocem Kaleh Euphrates with regard to the conversions which have taken place in those villages which I mentioned in my despatch written from here on the 5th March.

The Commission of Inquiry should stay at Birejik for another fortnight.

I also recommend that the battalions of Reserves here should be replaced by two companies of regular troops. This arrangement would give much more security and would cost the Turkish Government less expense.

No. 60.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 569. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 15, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a Confidential despatch which I have received from Mr. Fitzmaurice, who is now at Birejik, reporting that the notorious local magnate of Ourfa, Hussein Pasha, has been allowed to return to that place by the Ottoman Government.

I have instructed Mr. Block to make representations on the subject to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Birejik, June* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that the notorious Ourfa local magnate, Hussein Pasha, so prominently connected with the massacres there in December last, yesterday passed through Birejik on his return to Ourfa.

It was confidently expected that the Ottoman Government had intended to punish by permanent exile the principal ringleader of the Ourfa massacres; but his being allowed to return now gives the death blow to any hopes that the chief actors in the 1895 massacres would receive a small portion of their deserts. The result, as regards the Christian populations, in whose hands the industry and commerce of the country chiefly lie, is that their lost confidence cannot be restored for a very long period of years, while, as regards the Mussulmans, whose ignorant fanaticism has hitherto been restrained by the wholesome dread of swift retribution from within or without, the impunity which has attended last year's massacres has given them the conviction that at last they have shaken off the trammels of foreign intervention, and that they are now witnessing the revival of the good old days of Islam, when the treatment meted out to the subject Christians was dictated solely by the so-called interests of the dominant Mussulmans.

The recent upheaval of fanaticism, emboldened by impunity, and accentuated by a feeling of exasperation, the outcome of general misgovernment, is so great that I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that a declaration of war, or the armed intervention by one or more foreign Powers, within the next few years will be the immediate signal for a wholesale massacre by the Mussulmans not only of the Armenians, but of the entire Christian population of the interior.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 61.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 570.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting on the disturbances which recently took place in that town.

Dr. Dwight, the head of the Bible House at Stamboul, has written to thank me for the protection afforded to the American Mission by Major Williams, and to express his admiration for the coolness, wisdom, and skill with which Major Williams warded off the catastrophe which, according to the American missionaries, threatened the whole population of Van.

I have not failed to bring the excellent conduct of the Turkish officers and soldiers, as reported by Major Williams, to the notice of the Porte, but I do not propose, in the absence of instructions from your Lordship, to specify the names of the persons mentioned by Mr. Williams, nor to suggest that they should receive some special mark of appreciation from the Sultan for their services.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Major Williams to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Van, June* 28, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith my Report on the late events:

As I have constantly shown in my despatches the state of tension between the Christian and Moslem population of this district has for some time been gradually and

surely increasing, principally owing to the succession of outrages committed by the revolutionary party. This tension has been further accentuated by the unwillingness or impotence of the authorities to punish the Kurds, and by the open differences between the civil and military authorities as to the best means of checking this revolutionary movement. Both parties realized the gravity of the situation. The Vali was of opinion that he could make it so uncomfortable for the leaders that they would leave the country, while the opponents of this policy were for attempting to seize the leaders at once, regardless of consequences. As will be seen from the rough map I attach, local circumstances were all in favour of the rebels. The "gardens" of Van consist of a perfect maze of narrow streets, in which every house has communication through its garden with the next at hand. In this sort of "rabbit warren" the leaders lived almost openly, secure in the conviction they could easily escape if pursued. They were constantly seen both by soldiers and police, wearing occasionally a sort of uniform, and always armed and covered with belts of cartridges. What wonder is it that the Moslem population became excited, and that the position became almost intolerable. This state of tension culminated on Sunday night, 14th June.

About midnight a Lieutenant's patrol of regular infantry was attacked, and the officer and one soldier badly wounded. Two stories are current, one, that the patrol was met by a party of Turks smuggling salt, who mistook them for revolutionists; the other, that they were fired on by a party of Armenians in ambush. The true story will never be known, needless to say the latter version was the one which obtained credence, and the fury of the Mussulman population became uncontrollable. As to how the outbreak actually occurred I am unable to speak from personal observation, as I was occupied in seeing after the safety of the American ladies who were taking a holiday in a monastery about 3 miles away, and of the Honourable W. Thesiger, who was staying at a small camp we had established on the mountain about 5 miles off. In his haste to return he had to leave some of my things and the tents at a monastery, which has since been burnt. I hope that Her Majesty's Government will either grant compensation or obtain it from the Porte. About 11 A.M. on Monday, 15th June, firing began in and near the city, and in those parts of the gardens where the Christian and Moslem quarters meet. It continued until about 4 P.M., and several houses were burnt. I believe the disturbances were begun by a mob of Turks, gipsies, and zaptiehs, the latter being almost entirely out of hand during the whole week, and responsible for much that has happened. It must, however, be remembered that these men keep themselves, and as they have had no pay for months, it can hardly be wondered at that they took this opportunity of plunder. After the firing had ceased I went to see the Vali, and pressed on him the necessity of strong measures to restore order. The authorities seemed to be paralyzed, but I found regular troops posted in the main streets to try and preserve order, but they all said they had been fired on by the Armenians from fortified houses. Next morning firing began again in one or two directions. I immediately hoisted the Union Jack on the American Mission, and posted some soldiers there with one of my cavasses. I then went out and brought in refugees from the dangerous quarters, in all about 600, and I found that in one quarter alone a Mahommedan named Omar Agha, with the assistance of his friends, had saved nearly 1,500 people, whom he eventually brought to the Mission. In this work of mercy, which went on daily, I was most ably seconded by the Honourable W. Thesiger, and he was most active and useful in arranging to feed the vast multitude we soon had on our hands. I also went daily to see the Dominican Fathers, and was able to be of some slight service to them as regards their protection, and I relieved them of a large number of refugees who might have been a source of some danger to them.

On Wednesday matters had so developed that it became clear the revolutionists had fortified in a very skilful manner certain houses which cut me off from the town. I therefore had to make my way alone through this zone, picking up an escort outside it from the nearest guard. And here I may say that I invariably received the most courteous and willing assistance from all the officers and men of the regular army. No one here has had the same opportunities of seeing their behaviour as I have, and though I have seen irregularities and heard of crimes, among the latter a most horrible case of murder and robbery by a guard, which I am investigating, I can confidently say that, considering the want of discipline and system in the Turkish army from the superiors downwards, their behaviour under great temptation has astonished me.

It would be a graceful and politic act if you could ask His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to mark his appreciation of the services of two Bimbashis named Halim Effendi and Emin Effendi, and of the officer of my guard, Mulazim Osman Effendi, a lad just out

of the Military School. Some notice also taken by His Imperial Majesty of those civilians who preserved Christians, such as Omar Agha, Bakir Agha, Chauish of Redifs, Arab Effendi, and others, would do much to help the Christians in the future. The great danger we had to face now was the imminent arrival of the tribal Kurds, and, at a Council of the two Generals and the Vali, at which my presence was invited, a suggestion was made that, if possible, terms should be made with the rebels so as to try and save the town. I proposed a scheme, which was approved subject to the sanction of the Ambassadors and the Sultan. I was most careful not to commit Her Majesty's Government in any way; but it was most necessary to do something to gain time to get rid of the Kurds.

On Thursday, with Dr. Raynolds, of the American mission, I visited two of the fortified posts of the revolutionaries. I was astonished to find how intelligently their affairs were conducted. They told me that they hoped to be able to hold out for ten days, by which time reinforcements would arrive from Persia. The leaders I saw were a Russian and a Bulgarian, together with Armenians, naturalized subjects of Russia and America. I fancy there were in all about twelve or fifteen of these outsiders, the rest of their numbers being made up from young men from Van, their total numbers amounting to 600 or 700. Those I saw were mostly well armed with Russian rifles, which they said they had obtained by local subscription among the Van Armenians and introduced into the country by Persia. They appeared to have distinctive uniforms, which differed for each Society represented, viz., Huntchak, Tashnak, and Armenist. I enter into these details to show that those people were no patriots trying to defend their wives and children, but pure and simple rebels. I have ample proof that they murdered in cold blood unarmed and inoffensive Mahommedans, who were unfortunate enough to come near their positions. The Armenian owner of one of the fortified houses came to see me yesterday. He tells me that a certain old Turk coming to draw water was shot by these miscreants, who buried him in the garden. The old man's sons are now looking for their father's body, and my applicant wants to know if I can advise him.

On Friday we again saw the leaders. The Persian Consul-General and the Russian Dragoman being of the party, fresh proposals were made, and practically accepted. During the night, however, one of the rebel houses began hard firing, and in the morning it was captured and burnt by the troops, the defenders escaping. The town was now surrounded by many thousand Kurds. The village of Shabagi just outside the town was the scene of a horrible massacre by Kurds and Mahommedans, 180 men out of a total of about 225 were killed, and all the surrounding villages pillaged. The situation was now pretty bad, the tribal Kurds were now close by demanding the rebels.

We had another consultation with the Generals, and it was decided that the Consular Representatives should send a joint letter by me, and that, if they did not surrender, the regular troops would attack at all costs, endeavours, however, being made to protect the mass of people under my care. Dr. Raynolds and Mr. Thesiger saw the leaders during the night, and informed me that they had resolved on flight. Early next morning, Sunday, I carried the news to the Pashas, who gave orders for a strong cordon to be placed round the positions heretofore held by the rebels, and here a most untoward accident nearly lost us all.

Going down to the Vali's to ask help against some Kurds who were making their way towards my house from an unguarded corner, I found that there was tremendous excitement. It was said that the rebels had not really gone, but had made an attack on the Moslem quarters, burning some houses. As a matter of fact this was done by Kurds. Saad-ed-din was the only man who kept his head, though he thought they had not really gone. I stayed at the Office, and, to my great joy, at about 5 o'clock the Generals came and told me they were satisfied the main body, at least, had really gone. It is needless for me to enter into all the anxieties and suspicions of the next few days.

Tuesday a determined attempt was made by Kurds to plunder the houses under my care, but we managed to turn them, and Saad-ed-din, who came himself in answer to my bugler's calls, cleared the place. I then made the Armenians write what is called a "Mazbata" in this country, and that evening we began to clear the seething mass of humanity out of the Mission premises.

As I write we are gradually and surely settling down. The rebels are broken up. One party is said to have been cut to pieces on the Persian frontier. Troops are after others who are on the mountains near. Some have been caught, principally, I am sorry to say, young lads, who have been led away by their rascally leaders. As regards the loss of life and property, I am afraid we shall find it bulks very large. In the gardens of Van, I believe, about 500 Armenians and 300 Turks have been killed, and many have

been wounded; several officers and men have been killed and wounded; 150 of the best Armenian houses in Van have been burnt, and many more pillaged. The sketch map shows the part of the Christian quarter I have managed, thanks to the authorities, to save from pillage and fire. The reports from the villages are heartrending, but I hope and believe they are exaggerated, though at the best the number of men massacred by the Kurds must be very large, many have also most probably embraced Islam to save their lives.

June 30th.—Just as I am closing I hear that a large body of Persian Kurds are over the border. A report has also been received that a number of armed Armenians from Salamas are marching towards Bashkaleh. All this delays the pacification of the country. However, troops are expected to-morrow, and I hope and believe all will soon be quiet.

A few Kurds came this afternoon and killed a villager near the town. I went to the Vali, who at once gave me a few troopers of his escort; but when I went out the Kurds had gone. Infantry are now on the way to take up positions, which should effectually protect the villages.

Finally, I would beg to be allowed to bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Government the services of the Hon. W. Thesiger, who is living with me to study Turkish. He has shown himself to be possessed of tact and pluck during these trying times.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 62.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 290.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 21, 1896, 11·20 A.M.*

I HAVE received a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice reporting the arrival at Birejik yesterday of a battalion of regulars, and the excellent effect this has produced.

No. 63.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 203.) *Foreign Office, July 25, 1896.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 527 of the 6th instant, forwarding a telegram from the Acting British Consul at Aleppo relative to the threatening attitude of the Mahommedans at Aintab.

I approve your action in calling the attention of the Grand Vizier to the state of affairs in that town.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 64.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 204.) *Foreign Office, July 25, 1896.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 540 of the 8th instant, forwarding telegraphic correspondence with Mr. Fitzmaurice in regard to the proceedings of the Birejik Commission, and reporting the representations you have made to the Turkish

Government, and your intention of still further pressing for the fulfilment of the promises made by the Sultan.

Your proceedings in this matter have my entire approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 65.

Consul-General Wood to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Tabreez, July 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch, and of its inclosures, which I have this day forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran regarding the threatening state of affairs on the Persian border.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Consul-General Wood to Sir M. Durand.

Sir, *Tabreez, July 6, 1896.*

IN continuation and confirmation of the contents of my telegrams of the 2nd and 3rd instant, and of the correspondence which I have forwarded to the Foreign Office and to your Excellency on the subject of the troubles which have been brewing upon the Persian border, and the fears that were entertained of a descent of Turkish mountaineers into the plains of Salmas and Urumiah, I have now the honour to transmit, for your Excellency's further information, the originals of two communications which I have received, the one signed by the Rev. F. G. Coan, of Urumiah, and the other by Dr. Wright, of Salmas.

The first document, as your Excellency will perceive, speaks of the murder, evidently committed by Turkish Kurds just over the Persian border, of the Nestorian Bishop, Mar Goriel, and some thirteen others who accompanied him.

Mr. Coan gives details of the finding of the mutilated bodies of the murdered men, among which was that of the Kurdish muleteer who had probably undertaken to transport the party.

The letter addressed to me by Dr. Wright speaks of the fears entertained as to a combined descent of Turco-Persian Kurds among the Christian populations of the Salmas district.

From the latter part of Dr. Wright's communication it seems that an invasion of Turkish mountaineers into Persian territory might be a result of the fighting which is going on between the former and the numerous revolutionary parties which, it appears, had been expelled from Van, and which were evidently making their way to take refuge on Persian territory.

From what I can gather, orders have been sent by the Sadr-i-Azam to the Persian authorities not to turn away refugees. This is as it should be, but I cannot yet find out whether there is a sufficient Persian force in the threatened parts to repel the pursuing Turkish Kurds.

From telegraphic news I have just received from the Rev. Edington, in reply, I am glad to say that things are quiet so far in Urumiah, although I regret to find that Mr. Browne, of the English Mission, is still at Kochanes, presumably with the Nestorian Metropolitan.

Recent rumour states that there has been some rioting at Soujhoulak, but that these disturbances arose among the Shia and Sunni population, and had no reference to the few Nestorians who reside in that town.

* See Consul-General Wood's despatches of February 26, March 16, and April 11 and 22, 1896.
† See Consul-General Wood's despatches to the Legation of February 27, March 16, and April 11 and 22, 1896.

In an interview I had yesterday with the Ittisaré Esultaneh, the Vali Abd, I urged upon His Imperial Highness the necessity of sparing no effort to prevent the horrible state of affairs which has prevailed, and is still existing, on Turkish territory, extending to Persian soil.

The Armenian Archbishop left this yesterday, under instructions from the Sadr-i-Azam, for Salmas, in order to aid in quieting the Armenians in those parts, and to look after the refugees from Turkey, and I have just heard that the Russian Acting Consul-General, though rather late in the day, is endeavouring to arrest some of the leaders of the revolutionary party, who, as I have reported, have been crossing into Azerbaijan from Russia, and who have been buying arms and Kurdish clothing in certain quantities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

The Rev. F. G. Coan to Consul-General Wood.

Oroomiah (undated).

(Extract.)

ONE of the most shocking tragedies, which, in the history of the Nestorians of Oroomiah, has no equal, was enacted last week, just across the border from us, 15 miles above the college.

A party of fourteen Nestorians, consisting of the Nestorian Bishop, "Mar" Goriel of Oroomiah, and his nephew, three "kashas" or priests from Tergawar, two deacons, a servant of the Patriarch, and attendants, left about two weeks ago to make a visit to the Metropolitan who lives in Nocea, about two days' journey from here.

Near the Metropolitan also lives Sheikh Sadick, the son of Sheikh Abeidullah, famed for his invasion and attack on Oroomiah fourteen years ago. Ten days had elapsed from the time the party left Tergawar, four hours above us, without any word as to the fate of the party, when an ugly rumour got abroad of foul play, and searching parties went out to find them.

Just over the border near the Persian village of Rashikan an awful scene was encountered. On the ground lay the bodies of twelve of the fourteen with their throats cut from ear to ear, stripped of all clothing, and horribly mutilated. There were signs of a terrible struggle, as shown by the trampled snow, mud, and number of dagger wounds; also the fact that some had been bound with ropes before they could be overcome, only to be shot down, as seen by the bullet marks in their backs. The rest, defenceless and without arms, had been cut to pieces with daggers.

Two bodies are missing, as the searching parties did not dare go far from the place where the twelve were found. Not only were these killed, but terribly mutilated as well. Noses, lips, ears were cut off, not to speak of other indignities. Even the Kurdish muleteer who was with the party was killed, so that no survivor should tell the tale. The horses were found grazing near the spot, and the bodies were brought down on them to the different homes that have been made desolate.

The remains of the Bishop and his nephew were brought to Oroomiah, where they will be buried with great ceremony on the Sabbath. Thousands have been coming to look on the ghastly remains, and the whole Nestorian nation is greatly and rightly stirred at this most terrible insult and indignity ever offered them on this side.

When it is considered that the outrage was committed not against armed men or warriors, not against any one with whom the Kurds might have had a feud, but against an ecclesiastical party, that even in Turkey, and among the Kurds would command ordinarily respect, the crime seems the more atrocious and uncalled for.

None of those killed were even poor despised Armenians. All were Nestorians but the one Kurd.

The crime had evidently been committed on Turkish soil, as the bodies had been dragged and thrown into Persian soil, which was not over a mile away.

The question is who did it? Could the Sheikh have ordered it done? There are well-founded rumours that a terrible massacre, one that will throw all preceding ones into the shade, has taken place in Van and vicinity.

Early in the week the Kurds, who are Persian subjects, were summoned to the aid of those at Van, and sent to the Governor of Khoi asking permission to join the Kurds of Van in wiping out the Armenians, as the "Jahad" or religious war had been proclaimed.

The Governor referred the matter to the Governor here, who referred it to Tabreez.

Refugees are already coming to Salmas, and much booty is being sold at that place very cheap.

There is no doubt something has at last happened in Van. It is even reported that the English Consul has been killed, and the Russian Consul badly wounded.

All this the Sheikh would hear. Could he have committed this fell deed in revenge? It is certainly in some way connected with the Van reports. To-morrow the Governor here is to be seen, and urged to take all necessary precautions for the safety of the Christians here.

So far all is quiet, but it may be the lull before the storm.

Certainly if the Kurds over the border are on the war-path, disturbances may be looked for near us soon.

We rejoice in the fact that God reigns, and that while earthly Powers may be indifferent, not a hair falls to the ground without His knowledge.

Inclosure 3 in No. 65.

Dr. Wright to Consul-General Wood.

Dear Sir, *Haftevan, Salmas, June 29, 1896.*

I WISH to inform you that the safety of the 13,000 Christians of the plain of Salmas is imperilled. An invasion of the Persian and Turkish Kurds seems imminent unless immediate measures be taken to prevent the calamity. The steps which have led up to this critical state of affairs seems to be as follows:—

Some ten days ago the Turkish Government at Van made a demand that the Armenians expel from their quarter all men who belonged to revolutionary society or were known to be in sympathy with them. This, of course, the Armenians could not do for want of power. So the Turkish soldiers and the Kurds made an attack on the Armenian quarter which lasted three days, and great numbers of the Christian population were slain.

At the end of three days, at the urgent appeal of the Consuls, the men who were of a revolutionary mind or who were disposed to fight left the city, the first band had nearly 1,000 men in it, and it seems that later two bands left, one counting 500 and one 300 men. After the departure of these bands of men, the Government ceased bombarding the Armenian quarter, and turned its attention to those who had come out. These bands started towards Salmas and there has been constant fighting by the way, and it seems that very few of the Armenians will escape. All the Kurds from Persia about us have left to join in the fight and plunder. I am writing at half past 2 P.M.

This morning I wrote to the Honourable Alex. McDonald, United States' Minister at Teheran, that only 5 men out of a band of 800 had escaped, that all the rest were slain near Khana Soor, just beyond the Persian boundary. But later information says the first had 800 men instead of 1,000, and that that band was followed by another and were from Van as above mentioned.

Hence it is not evident yet whether all have been slain, and I judge not because a reliable man who has just now come to me from near the border tells me constant fighting is still going on, and the dead are scattered about every where.

So far only five men have reached here from Van. They are in the Imam Zada—a Moslem shrine or "bast" in Kuhina Shahar of the plain.

Ten other men have arrived and taken refuge in the same asylum from the villages about Bash Kalla.

They report that all the Armenian villages in the Bash Kalla regions have been plundered and the inhabitants put to the sword.

Bash Kallah itself has been spared as the population is mostly Moslem and Jews.

The Kurds have assembled from all quarters just west of Salmas, and have threatened the Christians of this plain.

They carried off sixty cattle from Sawra, one hour from Haftevan, yesterday, and

to-day have plundered Ayan a town partly Armenian, one hour west of us. A company of these came to Kuhina Shahar and came nearly getting into the asylum of the Imam Zada to slay the refugees there, they were stopped by the saryedar in charge.

For months the Persian Kurds have been in a very threatening attitude and have only been waiting for the fall of Van to commence work here.

They will find much sympathy among the Moslems of Salmas and the Governor here will do nothing to hinder the Kurds unless pressure is brought to bear upon him from elsewhere. He seems to hate the Armenians much, and is not inclined to protect even the men in the Imam Zada refuge.

There are two (portial) regiments of soldiers and about 200 cavalrymen here.

So far nothing has been done to prevent an onslaught of the Kurds.

Can not you get an order sent down on the authorities here, first, any refugees from Turkey who take "bast" refuge in Persia shall be protected from the Kurds; and 2nd, that the Commander of the troops shall at once move his camp near the border and protect all Christians of this plain. I know you will gain the gratitude of the whole of the Christian population if you can set at work some effective measure to accomplish the two above objects. The military force here should be strengthened if any real protection is to be afforded.

It might be well, if you think so, to communicate with Teheran by English telegraph to expedite the making of such arrangements as will secure Persian Armenians and Nestorians from an attack.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN W. WRIGHT.

P.S.—Miss Jenni F. McLean, an English subject, is one of our circle, I know you will be pleased to do all you can for her and us all, as well as for the Armenians and Nestorians.

J. W. W.

No. 66.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July 27.*)

(No. 571.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 16, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 547 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reporting the arrest of two Armenian clerks in connection with the discovery of arms at Samsoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 66.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Trebizond, July 6, 1896.*

IN connection with my preceding despatch, I have the honour to annex herewith copy of one from our Consular Agent at Samsoun, reporting the arrest of Ovaghim and Artin, who it would seem were clerks of the Russian and French post-offices as well as steam-ship agencies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 66.

Mr. de Cortanze to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le 1er Juillet, 1896.*

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance, qu'avant-hier, 29 Juin, il a été arrêté les commis des Postes Françaises et Russes, les nommés Artine et Joachim, tous deux Arméniens et soupçonnés de faire partie du Comité Révolutionnaire Arménien et d'en être les membres les plus influents.

Pour ce qui concerne le commis de la Poste Russe le fait est exact; c'est un garçon fort intelligent et certainement capable de jouer un rôle plus ou moins important.

Pour ce qui concerne l'employé de la Poste Française, c'est un imbécile qui a suivi le mouvement, incapable par lui-même de quoi que cela soit.

Dans les perquisitions faites chez le premier il a été trouvé des lettres et des armes; chez le second, rien.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) H. DE CORTANZE.

No. 67.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July 27.*)

(No. 575. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 567 of the 15th instant, I called on Towfik Pasha on the 16th instant, and expressed my thanks to his Excellency for the measures which had been adopted in regard to the Birejik conversions.

I also requested him to convey to the Sultan in a fitting manner my appreciation of the action which had been taken, the success of which would redound to the credit of His Majesty, and would doubtless create a very favourable impression in England. I stated at the same time that I had perfectly understood what a delicate question this had been, and that I had always desired that His Majesty and the Porte should take the initiative in regard to the measures to be adopted with the view of inducing the converts to return to Christianity.

The sole wish of the Embassy had been to serve the interests of His Majesty in finding some means of repudiating the forced conversions, which, I believed, were not in accordance with the law of Islam, and which were a source of discredit to the Turkish Government.

His Excellency thanked me for my friendly language, and said he would at once transmit my message to the Sultan. He admitted that forced conversions were contrary to the Moslem religion, and that they were not agreeable to Mussulmans, but, he told me confidentially, that, owing to the spirit of fanaticism which prevailed in the Birejik region, the Sultan as Caliph had been placed in a very difficult position, and it had been almost impossible for His Majesty to openly instruct converts to revert to Christianity. His Majesty had been obliged to act slowly and to allow time for things to quiet down, and this was the reason of the long delay which had occurred before any action was taken.

I then expressed the hope that the good example set at Birejik would be followed elsewhere, that instructions would be sent to the authorities at Aleppo and Roum Kaleh to facilitate the return to Christianity of the Armenians at Ehnesh, Jibui, and Nizib, and that measures should be taken for the protection of all the persons, who had reverted, after the departure of the Commission from Birejik.

I also reminded his Excellency of the Sultan's promise that the Redifs at Birejik should be replaced by regular troops, which I had just learnt from Mr. Fitzmaurice had not yet been carried out; and, lastly, I begged his Excellency once more to have every possible precaution taken to prevent any accident arriving to Mr. Fitzmaurice from any isolated act of fanaticism, and that special measures should be taken to protect him on his return journey.

His Excellency promised to comply with my various requests, and I have since received a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice stating that a battalion of regular troops is on its way from Aleppo to Birejik.

Mr. Block, in accordance with my instructions, made similar representations at the Palace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 68.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 577.) *Constantinople, July 21, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, giving an account of the recent disturbances at Niksar, in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Trebizond, July 13, 1896.

Sir,

A RELIABLE correspondent gives me, in a letter dated the 9th instant, a few particulars of the disordered condition of the Sivas Vilayet, of which the following is a summary:—

He first refers to the disturbances at Niksar, a small town which is inhabited, I believe, by some 2,500 Turks, 1,300 Armenians, and 300 Greeks, and forms the capital of a caza populated by about 1,600 Turks, 4,000 Armenians, and 1,500 Greeks.

On Saturday the 20th ultimo, the bazaar was, as a market day, crowded by villagers, when, on a signal from a minaret, and without any provocation, the Turks attacked the Armenians, killing those they met and plundering their houses. The authorities displayed, it seems, the utmost indifference. No less than 430 Armenians are reported to have lost their lives, besides two Greeks, and by accident two Turks.

The mob on the following day proceeded westwards to Herek, where, however, the Mahommedans, to their honour be it said, led by some officials, and especially the Mufti, who armed himself on the occasion, took the 800 Armenians under their protection, and pending the arrival of troops demanded, valiantly opposed the marauders from entering the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 69.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 578.) *Constantinople, July 21, 1896.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 551 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus respecting a conversation he had held with the Vali as to the possibility of arriving at a peaceful solution of the difficulties in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Damascus, July 4, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th ultimo, and especially the last paragraph, in which I ventured to suggest the advisability of entering into negotiations with the Druses, I have the honour to inform you that during an interview with the Acting Governor-General I sounded his Excellency as to the course he proposed to adopt, and took the opportunity of putting forward my own views of the matter. He agreed with me that there was a great difference between the circumstances of the winter expedition and those attending this rising; that whereas in the former case the Ottoman Government was compelled by the conduct of the Druses to reduce them to order by force of arms, in the latter the Druses were driven to desperation by inhuman oppression and ill-treatment, and the authorities were thus themselves responsible for the consequences.

His Excellency said that he had sent the Emir Mustapha Roslan, Kaïmakam of the Shercef, from Beyrout to confer with the Mushir Tahir Pasha, but nothing was gained by this move. I replied that it was not likely that the military authorities, smarting under defeat, and anxious for revenge, would be inclined to listen to any peaceful propositions, but it remained for the civil officials to take steps in the direction that justice demanded.

Nassonhi Bey then said that he had proposed to the Porte that Suedah should be relieved, and afterwards, if the Druses were willing to surrender those actually guilty of joining in the attack on the troops, measures might be taken to redress their grievances, and an amnesty granted to all the rest.

I told his Excellency that it was very doubtful if the Druses would abandon their compatriots unless a Commission were appointed with full power to examine into the whole matter, and that if such a Commission were composed of men who conscientiously desired to deal honestly and justly, it appeared likely that they would exonerate the Druses of all blame.

Nassonhi Bey replied that he had been much hampered by the appointment of Memdouh Pasha as Commander in the field, and his promotion to the rank of Ferik (Remzi Pasha, who was supposed to be going to take the command, being thus superseded), because if a Commission of Inquiry were appointed, Memdouh Pasha himself would have to submit to it, and an inquiry would be instituted into his conduct, as well as into that of others. This appointment, however, precluded the possibility of such a suggestion being made to the Sublime Porte.

There is truth in this, for it is clear that the Porte is inclined to support Memdouh Pasha, who, besides being at present absolutely useless as Commander-in-chief, seeing that he is shut up in Suedah, is greatly to blame, I believe, for the state of the Hauran. Khussrev Pasha, the Acting Kaïmakam, was, however, the principal instrument of oppression.

Still, the only possibility of a peaceful solution seems to me to be in the nomination of a Commission composed of men in whom the Druses could have confidence.

I have the honour to add that I learn from Druse sources that the Druses are determined to defend themselves, and that they think the Arabs of the Ledja will join them. The guns they took were rendered useless by parts of the breech having been removed by the soldiers.

It is now reported that the Druses did not burn the Government buildings at Suedah, as I had previously stated to be the case.

There are in all, so far as I can learn, at Sheikh Meskin twenty-three battalions, averaging 800 men each. Eight battalions from Smyrna, seven from the Acre district, four from Homs, Hamah, and Baalbec, one from Douma (Damascus district), and three from the garrison of Damascus, including one battalion of Ihtiat, which was all that could be raised, to make up the total.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 70.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 582.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 21, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 519 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah, giving further details respecting the affray between the troops and the Bedouins at Yambo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Jeddah, June 13, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Chancelier of the French Consulate, who returned to-day from Yambo, whither he had proceeded in order to ascertain the position of affairs, reports that the official account of the affray between the troops and the Bedouins was in the main correct.

It would appear that the Bedouin camelmen, of whom there were large numbers in the vicinity of the town, the caravan for Medina being about to start, had persisted in believing that there was a disinfecting stone in the military hospital—a little hovel at the extremity of the town—and maintained that this stone was intended "to kill people." The Kaïmakam had taken every possible means to assure them that there was no disinfecting stone in Yambo, but on the 4th instant a crowd of Bedouins, entering through breaches in the town wall, made an attack upon the hospital. The troops opposed them, and fired upon them, killing four Bedouins, after which the latter retired. There were no losses on the part of the troops, but the Kaïmakam of Yambo, and the Kolughassi, who was acting as Bimbashi, were injured by stones thrown by the Bedouins. On the following day the pilgrim caravan for Medina left in three sections. The town appears to be quiet now, the garrison there having been reinforced by 300 troops from Jeddah, but the Kaïmakam warns Europeans that he cannot insure their safety if they penetrate beyond the quay into the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 71.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 583.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 21, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting an attack made by the Djemadinli Kurds on the village of Harsinkiar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Consul Graves to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Erzeroum, July 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on Sunday, the 5th instant, a band of Kurdish horsemen of the Djemadinli tribe attacked the village of Harsinkiar, in the Caza of Passin, and proceeded to drive off the cattle of the Armenian villagers, killing five of the latter, and seriously wounding three others. Word was sent to the Kaïmakam at Hassan-Kalé,

and a detachment of cavalry was sent in pursuit, but without result, the Kurds getting clear away with their booty.

The Vali informs me that he has taken steps to have the marauders traced, and has charged the new Chief of the Erzeroum Gendarmerie, Mehmed Bey, who is a very fearless and active officer, to follow them up wherever they may be found.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 72.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 587.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 22, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 578 of the 21st July, I have the honour to report that the fighting in the Druse Mountain is officially declared by the Grand Vizier and Tewfik Pasha to be over for the moment. The troops are in Suedah, and the Druses are dispersed in the Jebel Hauran.

It is also stated that a Commission of three members is being sent to Suadah, empowered, according to the official versions, to settle disputes respecting landed property, and to establish mosques and schools. There is reason, however, to believe that its real powers are far more extensive, and that it is to examine the general complaints of the Druses, and do all it can to redress their grievances and pacify them. It would appear that want of money, difficulties in Crete, and fears for Macedonia, have made the Ottoman Government genuinely anxious to find an immediate peaceful solution of the Hauran question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 73.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 588.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 22, 1896.*

THE Secretary of the Armenian Patriarch called at this Embassy this morning, and stated that the Minister of Police had yesterday summoned to him the lay members of the Patriarchal Council, and read to them a decision of the Council of Ministers, declaring that they were to be held responsible in the event of any disturbance or "seditious action" occurring. They protested that they were a purely consultative body, and could not justly be thus held responsible, but were merely told in reply, that they were there to listen and not to talk.

This warning may probably be attributed to the anonymous notices, similar to those which preceded the Armenian demonstration and subsequent disturbance in October last year, which have been recently distributed to the Embassies and others, as reported in my despatch No. 543 of the 9th instant.

According to the Secretary, the lay Councillors had taken the somewhat unheroic resolution that if any disorders should occur they would at once send in their resignations and not go near the Patriarchate.

Mr. Mosditchian also mentioned that he had just come from the Russian Embassy, which, as I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 487 of the 24th June, has recently shown a more favourable attitude towards the Patriarch. On this occasion, however, Mr. Maximoff, the First Dragoman, again told him that His Beatitude had no alternative between "la démission et la soumission." He added, however, that the Patriarch might as well wait until the return of M. Nélidoff, who was expected back in about a fortnight. It appears that some recent articles in the Russian press have inspired His Beatitude with the hope that his Excellency may return with instructions to more actively support the Armenian cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 74.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 590.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora reporting as to the state of affairs at Cæsarea, and the consequent emigration of Armenian families from that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 74.

Acting Consul Richards to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Angora, May 20, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, from news received from Cæsarea, it would appear that that town, so far from showing any signs of even incipient recovery from the disastrous effects of the massacre in November last, is still wrapped in gloom and depression, both social and commercial, the only evidence of life and activity being afforded by those fortunate persons who, having succeeded in obtaining permission to leave the town, are making their preparations for departure. Within the last few days fifteen families have arrived here from Cæsarea, they having been preceded by many more all bent on the same errand. Even so, it is only the comparatively well-to-do who are able to emigrate, because it is quite impossible to obtain a teskereh from the police authorities without the payment of a heavy bribe, which, of course, is beyond the means of the poorer classes. If a general permission to emigrate were granted by the local authorities, I am assured by well-informed persons, half, if not more, of the Christian population would leave the town at once.

Quite recently there were two panics, within a few days the one of the other, which, absolutely causeless and unreasoning as they were, resulted in a general stampede of the Armenians from the bazaar, some of their shops being previously closed by the fugitives, although the greater part were left open by their occupants, just as they were.

On each occasion some of those who fled were arrested and imprisoned for a day or two for "causing a disturbance," while one or two Turks, it appears, were subjected to similar treatment for using language of a threatening or abusive character, which naturally only increased the alarm of the panic-stricken Christians. The authorities appear to have restored order with great promptitude, but the fact is terror has obtained such complete mastery over the Armenians, and, indeed, all Christians, that even those who attend to their business are ready to fly to their houses at a moment's notice without really knowing why they do so. As a matter of fact, I am informed that at least one half of the Christian shops are still closed. This may be a slight exaggeration, though I am not at all convinced of that, for certainly two months ago I was told the same thing, and I have every reason to believe that it was perfectly true then.

Trade, therefore, it will be readily understood, is in a state of stagnation, and that not only in Cæsarea itself, but in the surrounding villages, the inhabitants of which have been hitherto supplied with most of the necessaries of life in the matter of clothing, especially by Christian pedlars, who, as things are now, dare not leave the immediate vicinity.

The fact of the recent arrests at Tallas of Armenians accused of being members of a Revolutionary Committee has undoubtedly contributed to swell the general feeling of disquietude and alarm, which has been still further increased by the intelligence that twenty-five Armenians from the village of Tomarza have been recently arrested on the charge of giving shelter to certain refugees from Zeitoun.

How far this last report is true I am not yet in a position to say.

Your Excellency will understand from the foregoing that affairs in Cæsarea are very far from being in a satisfactory condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS

Inclosure 2 in No. 74.

Acting Consul Richards to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Angora, July 17, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th May, I have the honour to inform you that the Armenian emigration from Cæsarea still continues to an even greater extent than at the time when that despatch was written. Hardly a week passes without one or two families arriving from that town, the great majority of the fugitives being on their way to Constantinople.

Hearing the other day of the arrival here of fifteen families, at once I made inquiries in order to ascertain how many Armenian refugees had arrived here from Cæsarea during the last two or three months. I am informed by the two principal innkeepers that as many as 380 to 400 persons have been through here to their personal knowledge during the time mentioned. There must, of course, have been many others, of whom they would know nothing.

I am informed on good authority that the state of general trepidation and alarm, not to say panic, which I described in the despatch under reference as being the normal state of things in Cæsarea ever since the massacre, shows no signs whatever of abatement. All those who can afford to pay a high price for a teskereh, these papers not being procurable now without the payment of a heavy bribe, are making their way through Angora to Constantinople. Some of them have settled down here, but the majority have continued their journey to the capital.

Here there has sprung up recently a certain feeling of uneasiness among the Christians generally which did not exist a month or so ago. At the same time, it cannot be very acute because those among them who have country houses to which they are in the habit of repairing every summer have finally decided, after considerable hesitation, not to discontinue this old established practice, although at one time it seemed very unlikely that they would venture to leave the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 75.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July 31, 1896.*

I TRUST that you are supporting the representations of Consul-General Wood as to the urgent necessity of taking measures to prevent further attacks and murders, as reported in his despatch No. 27 to you of the 6th July.

No. 76.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 303.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 2, 1896, noon.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 147 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Grand Vizier is making inquiries about Mr. Brown. His Highness promises that, unless the local authorities make some objection, he will allow Mar Shimun to proceed to Urumiya.

No. 77.

Consul Stevens to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Batoum, July 17, 1896.*

FOR political reasons, and chiefly with a view to more effectually cope with the numerous bands of brigands that perpetually find their way into this country across the frontiers of Asia Minor and Persia, the Russian Government is about to adopt measures

for the reorganization of the rural police (Zemskaya Straja) and militia in the districts of Zakatal, Kars, Soukhoum, Batoum, and Artvin.

In granting to these corps a new organization it is proposed to increase them sufficiently to enable them to take over those services which are now being performed by the Cossack forces placed at the disposal of the various Governors of those districts, in addition to carrying out their duties in connection with the maintenance of order at all times, and more especially at those seasons of the year when it is the custom of the many nomad mountain tribes of the Caucasus to be on the move, and on which occasions it has hitherto been found necessary to augment the strength of the existing rural police and militia by the enlistment of the temporary services of a large number of persons selected from the native population of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. STEVENS.

No. 78.

Consul Stevens to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Batoum, July 20, 1896.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 3 of the 23rd January last, in which I touched upon the subject of the unfavourable conditions under which the Armenian portion of the population of this country was then labouring in consequence of the distrust with which it was regarded by the Russian authorities, a state of affairs brought about by the continuance of the agitation in Asia-Minor, I have the honour to report to your Lordship, that while I was at Tiflis and Baku, a short time ago, I found that the repressive measures previously reported had by no means been relaxed, but, on the contrary, were being more rigourously applied.

The suspicions of the authorities throughout the Caucasus in regard to all Armenians have considerably increased; domiciliary visits to houses and apartments occupied by persons belonging to this race have become matters of daily occurrence, and should the slightest grounds exist for suspecting any of the inmates of such dwellings of being in communication or actively sympathizing with their co-religionists in Turkey, all their correspondence is at once seized, and in a great many cases they find themselves carried off to prison for an indefinite period, without any explanation or reason for such harsh treatment being given them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. STEVENS.

No. 79.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 596.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 28, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 370 of the 11th May, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting on the Russianizing of the Greek Orthodox schools in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, July 8, 1896.*

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 23rd April last, addressed to Sir Philip Currie, in which I drew attention to the Russianizing of the Greek

Orthodox schools in Syria, I have now the honour to report that the Russian "Société de Palestine" has lately taken over or inaugurated eleven schools, as shown in the following list:—

At—	Schools previously existing. Boys.	Girls.
Damascus	..	1
Homs	1	1
Sednaya	1	..
Orbin	1	..
Souk-el-Gharb (Mount Lebanon)	1	1

	New Schools. Boys.	Girls.
Maarn	1	..
Maarounch	1	..
Bludan	1	..
Madmala	1	..

It is the intention of the Directors of the "Société de Palestine" to obtain control of the whole Greek educational system in Syria as opportunity offers. The Russian language is to be introduced, and the native teachers are informed that they will have to learn the same.

All Greek children who formerly attended British Mission schools have been withdrawn (the parents having been offered various inducements, and in one case at least pressure having been exerted), and they now attend the Greek schools.

The satisfaction of the Russian Government has been manifested by a distribution of decorations to the Greek Patriarch, the Greek Bishops of Zahleh and Homs, and of medals to various Greek Notables.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 80.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 597.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 28, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput, giving his views on the characters and relations of the Governor-General, the Christian Moavin, and the Military Commander of that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Kharput, July 6, 1896.*

IN connection with my telegram of the 29th ultimo, alluding to the precariousness of the situation at Kharput, the weakness of the Vali, and the somewhat strained relations existing between him and the Mir-Liva, Mustapha Pasha, I now have the honour to submit the following report with reference to the character, ability, and influence of the Vali, his assistant, and the General in question.

I have seen a good deal of Raiif Bey since my arrival here nearly three months ago, and the following remarks are based far more upon my personal observation than upon the opinion generally prevailing with regard to him, which tallies, however, to a great extent with my own.

The Vali seems to me to be naturally a kindly, well-meaning man, and for a Turkish official he is honest and straightforward. He is ready to hear and listen to the complaints of any Armenian who applies to him, and he has succeeded in recovering and restoring to their friends several Armenian women and girls who were abducted during the disturbances in this vilayet. Upon representations made to him by me, he has given orders that claims made by Armenians for the recovery of cattle stolen from them should no longer be referred to the Sheri Court, where Christian evidence is inadmissible, and he appears, on the whole, to incline towards justice and humanity.

Raiif Bey, however, on the other hand, seems weak, vacillating, and suspicious. He is plausible in speech, talks a great deal, but rarely to the point, and he impresses one with the idea that he would be incapable of seriously and resolutely tackling any question which might arise for his solution. His promises cannot implicitly be relied upon, although one may count, to a limited extent, upon his good nature. He is easily influenced by any underling who works upon his suspicions, and his chief adviser and confidant appears to be, at present, the Defterdar, who is generally held to be far more of a Governor-General than the Vali himself. The influence over Raiif Bey undoubtedly possessed by that official is greatly to be deplored owing to the latter's want of character and his prejudice against the Armenians. The removal of the Defterdar from this vilayet would therefore seem greatly to be desired.

The authority held by the Vali over the various Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams under his control is apparently little more than nominal. His orders are sometimes ignored, and he has neither the energy nor the courage to make his power felt. He caves at liberty, and even receives cordially, such notorious criminals as Hadji Beygo, referred to in my despatch of the 2nd May last; and it is to be apprehended that he would be wholly incapable of grappling resolutely with any unlooked-for emergency that might present itself.

The Turkish epithet for Raiif Bey is "Govshek" (slack), which summarizes very appropriately his character and ability. He would presumably succeed fairly well as Governor of a quiet Roumelian province, but is, I think, in every way unfitted for this vilayet, which requires a Dictator rather than a Governor-General.

The Vali's assistant, Stepan Effendi, was, previous to the date of his appointment to Mamuret-ul-Aziz, Ottoman Consul at Ibraïla, to which post, he tells me, he is very anxious to be renominated. The cause of his removal, he states, was his inability to bring about the condemnation of a number of Armenians there who had been embroiled in a sanguinary conflict with a mob of Turkish Hamals. An officer named Servet Bey (?) was sent by the Porte to Ibraïla to investigate the matter, and urged Stepan Effendi to use his influence with the Roumanian Tribunal towards the condemnation of the Armenians. The Court, however, found that both sides were to blame, and accordingly acquitted all the parties concerned. To this fact Stepan Effendi attributes his recall from that town.

The Muavin is an elderly, quiet, and timid man, who, I think, is simply a nonentity here from an official point of view. He has been present during conversations I have had with the Vali, and invariably sides with the latter, whether rightly or wrongly. I met him, shortly after his arrival, at the Vali's private residence in the company of several Turkish officials. When he ventured to speak not the slightest notice was taken of what he said, and he looked downcast and apologetic; and Turks here have assured me that he is simply a dummy intended to figure as the fulfilment of one article in the scheme of reforms.

Stepan Effendi is undoubtedly lacking in that energy and independence of character required by the holder of a post such as he now occupies.

General Mustapha Pasha has been for the last thirteen years at Kharput. He was born in Crete, and was educated at the Constantinople Military School. He speaks French well, is very affable and courteous in manner, and is generally liked by the few Europeans in this town. He has often been spoken of to me as a "Sheitan"—an extremely wily man—and I think that he might have done well in the diplomatic service of his own country. There seems to be very little doubt that he is mainly responsible for the disturbance here, but it is difficult to realize, in his society, that such can have been the case. His admirers maintain that the ex-Defterdar, who was Acting Vali at the time of the outbreak, was chiefly responsible in the

matter, and that Mustapha Pasha did his utmost to localize and extinguish the conflagration. But this assertion, I regret to say, is contradicted by evidence it would be difficult to refute.

The coldness existing between the Vali and the Mir-Liva is probably attributable to the fact of Raiif Bey's ignoring the General's superior rank, and himself naturally desiring to be considered as the first man in the town. In any case the coldness between them is greatly to be regretted at the present moment. Mustapha Pasha might probably, if he wished, connive at a disturbance in such a way as to throw the entire responsibility upon the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 81.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 598.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 28, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 578 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting on the movements of troops in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Damascus, July* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that the total number of troops in Damascus, and the Hauran amounts to thirty-six-and-a-half battalions.

Of these, the Redif battalions from Caiffa and Zebedani form the garrison of Damascus and the Nebk battalion has been sent to Kuneitra in the Hermon district. There are one battalion at Mismieh and Brak on the northern confines of the Ledja, one at Bozrah-el-Harir, and two and a-half battalions besieged at Suedah.

At Sheikh Meskin there are now assembled twelve battalions of the 3rd Army Corps, six from the Acre district, one from Tripoli, three from Baalbec, Homs, and Hamah, one from Beyrout, one from Jerusalem, two from Damascus district (Catana and Douma), and three belonging to the Damascus garrison; twenty-nine in all. The strength of the battalions varies from 700 to 800 men. A few guns and several squadrons of cavalry have also been dispatched to the Hauran.

Memdouh Pasha has sent word that in spite of the fact that he was able to secure a considerable quantity of sheep and grain, he will not be able to hold out much longer.

The Mushir is now at Sheikh Meskin, and it is reported that the troops are to move to-day in three divisions: one on Suedah, one on Kourassa, and one on Salkhad.

The Druses under arms are stated to amount to 9,000 or 10,000 men, but this is probably an exaggeration. I should think 6,000 would be nearer the truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 82.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 599.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 29, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reporting on the state of affairs in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Vice-Consul Williams to Mr. Herbert.

Van, July 15, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the pacification of the district is proceeding slowly. The acting Governor Saadeddin Pasha has been doing very well. He has collected and distributed under the supervision of my Dragoman about 1,600 head of cattle, sheep, and goats, to the villages near the town. Troops have been sent in every direction, but it will take some time before even moderate confidence is restored. I have great hopes, however, that the harvest will be saved. The revolutionists are said to have been destroyed, among them, I am sorry to say, many lads who went off unarmed, feeling that they were too deeply involved. I did my best to persuade them to remain, but without result, as the leaders seemed very confident that they would get through.

The reports from the villages are very conflicting, and it is quite impossible as yet to make any accurate estimate of the loss of life.

The district of Moks has entirely escaped; at Bashkaleh the loss is very slight as the villagers were protected by the soldiers. I am afraid that a considerable number of villagers have become Mahomedans.

Saadeddin has expressed himself very strongly against this practice, and has to my knowledge stopped it in two places.

In the present state of feeling this question must be treated very tenderly. Two boats of grain valued at £T. 224, the property of the Relief Committee, are reported to have been looted, and the man in charge killed. Two other Armenians distributing relief under the protection of the authorities, are also believed to have been killed. I hope to send full particulars by next post. I have just heard of trouble with the Nestorians, but the Governor was very reticent about it. He informed me that he had sent to look after Mar Shimoon, and at my request he sent further special instructions for the protection of Mr. Browne.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 83.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 600.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, July 30, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting the arrival of troops at that port from Salonica and their departure for the Hauran.

I have to request your Lordship to communicate this despatch to Colonel Chermside.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT

Inclosure in No. 83.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

Beyrout, July 18, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at this port from Salonica on the 15th instant of the Turkish transport "Assyr," having on board 160 horses and 200 troops.

The men and horses left immediately on landing for the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 84.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 601.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, July 30, 1896.

IN my despatch No. 471 of the 17th June, I pointed out to your Lordship the manner in which the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy were treated by the Sublime Porte, and inclosed a copy of a Report from Saadeddin Pasha on the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Van.

I at the same time sent a copy of this Report to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, and I now have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Major Williams pointing out the numerous inaccuracies contained therein.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Major Williams to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Van, July 11, 1896.

REFERRING to your despatch of the 23rd June, 1896, and inclosure, which I return herewith, I have the honour to refer you to my despatch of the 1st April, 1896. The facts have never been disputed, and have often formed the subject of conversation between myself and the late Vali and Saadeddin Pasha himself. It was in consequence of these attacks that Saadeddin Pasha made his tour. About the middle of April I visited the village of Eskipag, one of those in question, and the one that suffered most. It bore every sign of having been pillaged. Many of the doors and principal beams of the houses had been removed, with the result that most of the roofs had fallen in.

Prior to the recent outbreak, I was making arrangements at the request of the Vali to give assistance from the Relief Fund to help rebuild three villages, which, according to the local authorities, had been totally destroyed in the autumn of 1895. Their names are Boghos Kessen, Hazarca, and Agchachai. The late Vali showed me a list of cattle, &c., claimed to have been returned to the villagers in the early spring, remarking that it was only half of what was stolen by the Kurds. That a considerable amount was returned in May I am perfectly aware. No one who has seen the troupes of half-naked women and children who have come in here for help can doubt that the distress has been sore among the poorer inhabitants of the villagers. I quite agree with Saadeddin that many who claimed to have lost everything had food, but these stores were not at the disposal of the classes to which I refer. The greatest distress has undoubtedly been among the poorer townspeople and the inhabitants of outlying and poverty-stricken districts like Moks, Shattakh, and Norduz. It is said that last year the men from these districts were unable to go to Diarbekir to work as is their custom, so that their main source of income failed. As regards the tour of the Russian Vice-Consul, he merely took his family to Tiflis by the most direct route, and the whole way was the guest of the Kurdish Chiefs. We constantly discuss the situation; apparently his views are the same as mine. The district to which he probably referred in his despatch is in the Bitlis vilayet Khizan, from where we received news that matters were not as bad as they were reported. I have been extremely careful in my Reports not to draw harrowing and exaggerated pictures of plundered villages. I have generally confined myself to drawing attention to the state of insecurity in which these people live, pointing out clearly the danger which was threatening, owing to the impotence or unwillingness of the Government to deal with the Kurds, and the criminal folly of the revolutionists. My principal requests have been for some effective measures to keep the Kurds under control; for Shakir Pasha to be sent, and for money to pay the troops, &c. I venture to say that if the Porte could have been induced to see matters in the same light, the late deplorable events would never have occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 85.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 602.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 30, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 577 of the 21st instant I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, informing me that no steps have been taken to bring the authors of the recent disorders at Niksar to justice, and pointing out the bad effect produced in the vilayet by the attitude of the authorities.

I propose to make representations on the subject both at the Palace and the Porte, and have instructed Mr. Marinitch to read Mr. Bulman's despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Major Bulman to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Sivas, July 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that no attempts have been made to bring to justice any of those who took part in the disorders at Niksar, and this has done more to create a feeling of uneasiness throughout the province than the actual massacre. I drew the attention of the Governor-General to this, and he replied that it was impossible to get sufficient evidence to convict any one, but I can hear of no attempt having been made to get evidence. I afterwards saw Shakir Pasha, and informed him in language most explicit, if no one was punished, it appeared either that the Government had commanded the massacre, or that no Government existed. He then told me that perhaps the Governor-General would go himself to examine into the matter, but unless direct orders are sent from Constantinople it is most improbable that any steps will be taken, and this will give a fresh encouragement to that large majority of the population that are waiting for any opportunity to pillage. The dismissal of the Kaimakam of Erbaa so soon after his successful defence of the town, has also had a bad effect, as the majority of the population know nothing of his supposed correspondence with Murad Bey, and believe he was dismissed for defending the town against the attempt to pillage it. In the neighbourhood of Tokat I am informed that a considerable number of Circassians and others have arrived, and are waiting in the neighbouring villages with the intention of attacking Tokat the first opportunity that offers, and acts of disorder from different parts of the province show that the population is in an excitable state. Under these circumstances the punishment of some of the perpetrators of the massacre at Niksar is of some importance, but unless some direct order is sent from Constantinople, the local authorities do not appear likely to do anything.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 86.

Consul-General Wood to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Tabriz, July 13, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 6th instant,* I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the further copy of a despatch which I have this day forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran regarding the threatening state of affairs on the Persian border.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

* See Consul-General Wood's despatch to Legation No. 27 of July 6, and previous correspondence.—C. G. W.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Consul-General Wood to Sir M. Durand.

Sir, *Tabriz, July 13, 1896.*

WITH reference to my past correspondence on the subject of the unsettled and threatening state of things in the south-western districts of Azerbaijan as well as the influx of members of Armenian revolutionary parties, I have the honour to bring to your Excellency's knowledge the following additional information.

As far as I have been able to gather, there has been no massacre of either Armenians or Nestorians on Persian territory, and, from news received lately, it would seem that a few of the refugees who had been detained by Kurdish Chiefs on the border have been liberated and allowed to come into Persia.

On the other hand, things must have been carried to worse extremes on Turkish territory since my despatch No. 27 left this, for, as I informed your Excellency in my telegram of the 9th instant, the Persian Kurds have accompanied their Turkish brethren, such of these at least who had followed and annihilated* the Armenians who had been turned out of Van, back to that place and its neighbourhood.

This exodus has left the Persian border for the present in a quieter state.

It is, however, extremely necessary that the Zaffir Esultaneh, who has just been appointed as Governor-General of Urumiah and the south-western districts, should proceed immediately to his post, and the aid, *i.e.*, the pay and arrears due to the few Persian troops in those parts, placed at his disposal.

He is a good man,† as Persians go, and one cannot blame him if, as I had the honour to point out in my telegram of the 10th instant, he does not feel justified in undertaking the responsibilities of his new post until he is assured of the pay and arrears due to the soldiers who are to carry out his orders, under perhaps very adverse circumstances.

During my absence and since my return here the number of Russian Armenian members of various revolutionary Societies who have come to Tabriz has much increased.

These people are said to be men of the Russian Reserves.

Their crossing over in such numbers into these parts cannot possibly have escaped the Russian authorities on the Russo-Persian border, for the majority must undoubtedly be furnished with passports. Besides this, no steps have been taken here by the Russian authority with regard to them, although the Russian Consulate-General can hardly be blind or deaf to what is patent to the ordinary observer, *i.e.*, that these people, coming here under the cover of various trades and capacities, after a few days spent in Tabriz, where arms reach them, leave for Urumiah, Salmas, and the Turkish border.

It is reported to me that these people have actually made offers to the Nestorian Metropolitan to make their way to Kochanes and the Nestorian villages around it in order to defend them against the Turks, or to find the means of providing his people with arms and ammunition.

On the other hand, the number of cases of arms and of ammunition which are brought here would seem to preclude the idea of its having been carried over in contraband, for the rifles are said to be of the Russian Government pattern, and the cartridges are undoubtedly so, to my knowledge, for they are the long nickel-coated pickets seemingly of the ·303 or a lesser gauge lately adopted by the above-mentioned Government.

Moreover, I have reason to believe, from secretly-obtained information, that both arms and ammunition are obtained from the Government stores. Whether this is done with the connivance of the superior Russian authorities, or through direct corruption of the officials in charge of the Government stores, I am unable for the present to say.

These proceedings are beyond my comprehension, for I cannot understand why the Russian Government should wish to create further complications in Armenia by allowing or abetting the irruption into that country of revolutionary parties, who, although working for the same end or idea, belong to various Societies, acting independently of each other.

Surely they have now, as they have had in the past, sufficient grounds and every

* I regret to hear that the naturalized American citizen Mr. Avedisiantz, who was among those who departed from Van, is now reported to have been killed.—C. G. W.

† Mentioned in Consul-General Wood's despatch No. 53 of October 28, 1895, about 6th paragraph.—C. G. W.

opportunity for an armed intervention, and can hardly require the spilling of further Christian blood either by Turks, Persians, or their own people sent out in irregular and independent batches, to urge them to vindicate Christendom from horrors almost unequalled in the history of ancient times.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

No. 87.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 307.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 4, 1896, 10·40 P.M.*

MGR. ISMERLIAN has resigned the post of Patriarch, and the Sultan has accepted his resignation.

A *locum tenens* is to be appointed, and the Grand Vizier states that steps are being taken for this purpose.

No. 88.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 215.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 5, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 570 of the 16th ultimo, inclosing a Report by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the disturbances which took place in that town in the month of June last.

I have to request you to inform Major Williams that his proceedings, as reported in his despatch, are entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government, and that his account of M. Thesiger's conduct has been received with satisfaction.

I concur in your view, that it would be inadvisable to specify to the Porte the names of the Turkish officials whose behaviour is spoken of in favourable terms by Major Williams.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 89.

Consul-General Wood to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Tabriz, July 16, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a further copy of a despatch which I have this day forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, regarding the threatening state of affairs on the Persian border, and the actual massacre of Armenians this side of the border by Persian Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Consul-General Wood to Sir M. Durand.

Sir, *Tabriz, July 16, 1896.*

I HAD the honour to transmit to your Excellency yesterday a telegram giving information which I had just received as to the massacres of Armenians which have taken place on Persian soil.

Up to the moment of telegraphing I had, as your Excellency is now aware, received no news of any such occurrences on Persian soil, either from the English or American missionaries, or from other sources.

The details of what actually took place is as follows.

As mentioned in the communications from the Rev. F Coan and Dr. Wright, inclosed in my despatch of the 6th instant, a band of some 800 Armenians had left Van. The main body of these were attacked on the way to Persian territory by Timour Agha, son of Ali Khan, of the Shakak* tribe, and but fifteen to twenty men managed to escape with their lives. Timour Agha had the ears taken off the dead, and had them slung around his horse's neck.

Ameen Shavshin (blue eyes), a Persian Kurdish Chieftain, joined in the above-mentioned affray. A body of some sixty Armenians, composing the vanguard of the troop of 800 men, managed to arrive unmolested on Persian territory, but no sooner had they entered than they were attacked and slaughtered, with the exception of fourteen men, who escaped, and succeeded in taking refuge in the shrine of Imam Zadé at Kohine Shahr, in the Plain of Salmas.

These were presumably the people mentioned in Dr. Wright's letter to me.

According to the reports spread by these survivors, presumably, it would appear that news had reached their main body when at Varak, that the Van outrages had ceased on the 27th June.

I beg that your Excellency will understand that I have reported the news which had reached me through private and voluntary sources, and that owing to the lack of agents in the threatened districts, I cannot vouch for its absolute correctness. I am glad to find that there has been no confirmation of the evil reports concerning the safety of our Consul at Van.

In conclusion, I beg to state that, in the event of your Excellency considering that my presence might be of use in the south-western districts, that I am ready to proceed there at short notice, although I think it right to point out that it would perhaps be better to wait until the Zaffir Essultaneh, the newly-appointed Governor-General of Urumiah, should have had time to take up his appointment and to look around him.

His Excellency is personally anxious that I should proceed to those parts in the hope, probably, of my presence being of some encouragement and use to him in a somewhat difficult position and period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

No. 90.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 605.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 1, 1896.*

ACCORDING to a telegram received at the Porte, and which has been communicated to Her Majesty's Embassy, 5,000 armed Armenians lately assembled in the village of Zor, in the Sandjak of Bayazid, with the intention of attacking the Mussulman inhabitants of Utch Kilisse, and only dispersed on the authorities threatening to send troops against them.

It seems highly improbable that so many armed Armenians should be found in this district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 91.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 606.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 515 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Hamidieh Regiment, consisting of about 500 Kurds, has recently arrived in Constantinople, and has been quartered in the Selimié barracks at Scutari.

Their ultimate destination is unknown.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

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* Persian Kurd.

No. 92.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 608.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Moush, reporting that tranquillity is maintained in the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Moush, July* 14, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that tranquillity is maintained in this vilayet. An attempt to imitate events in Van, in the Akhlat region, was stopped by the Vali at once sending the Alaï Bey from Bitlis to keep order. At Tadiz, south-east of Bitlis, Kurds murdered four persons, including an Assyrian priest.

The Mutessarif has, on my recommendation, sent Nadir Agha to Sasoun to replace Hajji Tayib in the work of controlling the Kurds. He has also promised me to reconsider the question of collecting taxes during the present year in the relieved districts, for which orders had been issued.

On my strong protest, a Sasounli named Kiragos, who was a witness before the Commission of Inquiry, and who had been arrested in connection with the question of taxes, was at once released.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—I learn that the Mutessarif of Guendj has at last been dismissed, a most satisfactory step.

C. S. H.

No. 93.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 612.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that one of the Sultan's Aide-de-camp called at Her Majesty's Embassy on the 29th ultimo, and stated that he was specially commanded by His Imperial Majesty to wait upon all the Representatives of the Great Powers, in order to show them specimens of the weapons, ammunition, &c., seized by the Turkish authorities during the recent disturbances at Van.

He then displayed, with suitable expressions of horror, the following collection of revolutionary objects:—

A seal, said to be that of an Armenian Revolutionary Committee.
Two Armenian maps of Van and other Anatolian provinces.
A mould for making coin.
A Mauser rifle, said to have been made by the insurgents at Van.
One or two Berdan rifles from the Russian factory of Tula.
A sword and dagger of Georgian pattern.
A trumpet, caps for officers and privates, marked with a large cross, and several cartridges.

The Aide-de-camp asserted that one of these, which he handled with much caution, was loaded with dynamite. It was marked Eley.

He also intimated that the Sultan's intention in sending him round to the various Embassies was to prove to them that the disturbances at Van were the result of a regularly organized revolutionary movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 94.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 613.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 8, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting on the state of affairs in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Vice-Consul Williams to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Van, July* 22, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received a telegram from the Rev. W. Browne, "All well." All is quiet with the Nestorians; I shall doubtless hear by next post from him exactly what the difficulty has been. I think it was only a scare. Saad-ed-din has informed me that he will either get back or replace the wheat stolen at Arjisch, the property of the Americans. A large number of villagers have fled across the Persian frontier abandoning their villages. The authorities here are very anxious about a band of revolutionists, said to be at Khoi, prepared to cross into Turkish territory. Troops are watching them. The Bishop of Van has been sent away. He was a most improper person to hold so high an office; the Government is quite right to remove him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 95.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 614.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on recent arrests of Armenian agitators in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Consul Graves to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Erzeroum, July* 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that during the last week or two the efforts of the Vali of Erzeroum to follow up Armenian agitators have been attended with considerable success. His Excellency gives me the following particulars.

A certain Vahan Tufenkdji, of Erzeroum, who was wanted by the police for the alleged attempt to assassinate an Armenian policeman, reported in my despatch of the 25th ultimo, was killed by gendarmes in the Passin district while resisting arrest.

Armenag, of Boulanik, and Aram Aramian, of Erzeroum, both prominent Hintchag agitators, have been arrested at Kepri Keui, in Passin, and have made confessions which have enabled the authorities to arrest several of their companions. The above Armenag claims to have been in Talori and Sasoun with Damadian and Mourad, while Aram Aramian, who was the Secretary of the former Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum,

Mgr. Ormanian, has been wanted for more than five years past for the murder of Hatchadour Giregian, a crime which he now confesses, but declares to have been without political motive.

In all about twenty-five alleged revolutionaries have been arrested of late in this vilayet, all of them carrying arms, with the exception of eight supposed fugitives from Van, who were captured by Kurds in Khinis after they had thrown their weapons into a river. The Vali is to be congratulated on his success in arresting these agitators, whose presence at large in the country would inevitably have caused fresh disturbances.

His Excellency has expressed to me his surprise that, after all that they have recently suffered, through political agitators, the Armenians in general should continue to harbour Hintchag and other revolutionary agents, and seldom or never give information of their presence to the authorities. I confess that I do not share his Excellency's surprise. For the informers would have in the first place to fear the vengeance of other revolutionaries, against which the unpaid and inefficient police force are powerless to protect them. Then they are well aware that, according to local precedent, such a denunciation would probably involve the arrest and punishment of scores of innocent persons on charges of harbouring and complicity with the real offenders, though there is reason to hope that under Raouf Pasha's more enlightened régime greater pains will be taken to discriminate between the innocent and the guilty, in this vilayet at least. And lastly, it must be admitted that the recent attitude of the Turkish authorities towards the Armenian population at large, and the consistent failure to punish Mussulmans guilty of the murder, pillage, and outrage of Armenians, have disaffected even the most law-abiding of the latter, and made them inclined to look with some degree of sympathy upon the revolutionaries, no matter how foolish and even criminal their methods may be.

The remedy, of course, is in the hands of the central Government, but it involves an entire reversal of the present persecuting policy, and unless it is applied the hopes and endeavours of well-intentioned local Governors like Raouf Pasha to secure the co-operation of the law-abiding Armenians against the revolutionaries are doomed to disappointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 96.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 615.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting on the general political situation in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Vice-Consul Mussy to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Adana, July* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report on the present political state of my province as follows.

The general Mussulman population, as well as the majority of the Turkish Government officials, foster a feeling of deep hatred and a desire for revenge towards the Christians for their resistance at Zeitoun, quite ignoring the acts of brutality committed by their own co-religionists.

They give proof of this feeling by overt acts of oppression, such as excessive pressure in the collection of taxes, even from poverty-stricken families; seizure by force, and without payment, of Christian property by soldiers and others in the bazaars and

villages; the casting into prison on false evidence or without trial; bodily injury to Christians who venture to their fields or on the roads, and by many other acts which point to a fixed desire to drive the Christian population into open revolt, thereby to give a plausible pretext for further massacre.

It is to be hoped that such will be averted, but it is impossible to foresee from day to day what may arise in a country whose condition is that of the Turkey of to-day.

During my journies I am asked everywhere by Christians what is going to be done, is their condition to remain such as it is, and they add that it is well-nigh unendurable.

I reply that they must have patience, and by degrees this state will improve.

This reply, I must confess, does not bring much comfort to them, as they state that already they have lost all property and liberty, and everything worth living for.

It is only by the presence of Consuls, travelling in the remoter parts, that any security can be guaranteed. By their presence such officers materially check the oppression alluded to, the Turkish officials feeling that their actions are thereby noted and the state of their districts thoroughly known.

Representations on hear-say evidence are quite useless, the Government officials always reply thereto with lying statements to the contrary.

The Christian population is quiet, and to a great extent the spirit of defiance and desire to irritate the Mussulmans by threats of external aid has died out. They are almost entirely disarmed. But there exist still revolutionary parties, fomented by foreign agents, which may cause a grave danger in the future. There are still many Armenians who have not learnt a lesson by the late events, and who believe the statements of those who tell them that a rising will mean external aid.

On the coast, from Adalia to Suedieh, there have been scattered for some weeks past all available troops, some 25,000 men, with a view to opposing a feared landing by the British, an idea evidently emanating from Russia. The lower-class official does not take pains to conceal a distrust and dislike towards England. We are blamed for the late Armenian troubles and for "all the misfortunes" of this country. It is vain to argue to the contrary. At the same time, it must be said that the majority of the higher officials do not profess to share this opinion, stating that England is Turkey's friend, Russia her enemy. They have everywhere shown courtesy towards me, and have expressed a strong desire for England's friendship.

The Turk appears to require always disorders or scares to keep him occupied, and Russia acts on this. The feared British landing scare has now, to some extent, given way before the more real danger in Crete.

Adana Province.

At present all is quiet, and there is nothing of importance to note. Want of confidence, however, utter impecuniosity, and the natural enmity of the two religions may cause fresh troubles to break out at any moment.

The Governor-General is an old man who has but little to say to the government of his province. In case of trouble he would be worse than useless, and he is not imbued with favourable views towards Christians, although towards me personally he has shown himself courteous and willing to meet my wishes.

The Ferik, or Military Commander, is an energetic man, well-spoken of by all the European Consuls during the late troubles. He is a useful official.

On the Governor-General's private Dragoman, Thisbilian, an Armenian, I have reported elsewhere.

The other officials generally are well-disposed men, with the exception of the Kaimakams of Féké and of Tarsous, who both require careful observation, especially the former, who should be removed.

District of Mersina.

The political state of this district is better than any other in the province, owing to its situation on the coast; to the presence of the present Mutessarif, Nazim Bey, a good official and pleasant man; to the presence of European traders and Consuls; and of American men-of-war at the port of Mersina during the whole winter. These vessels have done much to preserve order during the late troubles.

I would beg to suggest the presence occasionally of one of our war-ships, which

would do much to raise the prestige of our country in native eyes. The late visit of Her Majesty's ship "Howe" did much good in this respect.

The Mutessarif of Mersina is a well-disposed, enlightened man, who appears to have the good of his country at heart, and who earned the praises of all Consuls during the late disturbed times. He is doing much good in endeavouring to improve roads, make better landing accommodation at the port of Mersina, and introducing pure water to that town by means of an aqueduct.

He will endeavour to suppress any disturbances which may arise.

The military Kaimakam of this district is also an energetic official, Essad Bey, who appears to perform his duties satisfactorily.

The Kaimakam (civil) of Tarsous is a worthless official, very fanatical against Christians, and a man who showed great enmity towards Mr. Martin, English missionary, during the period he was Kaimakam of Hadjin.

The western portion of the Province of Adana is quiet, owing to the small proportion of Christians residing in it.

District of Kozan.

The Mutessarif evinces a desire to meet one's request for the improvement of the state of his district, but he is, himself, a man who lacks energy, and who displays an ignorance of what takes place almost under his very eyes. He is dangerous, alone, on account of his complete lack of energy, and in case of troubles this would have a bad effect.

The Kaimakam of Féké is a worthless fellow, who should be removed.

I have made representations to the Governor-General with reference to him and to his behaviour to Mr. Martin last winter. I may have to ask for your assistance, later, with reference to this official.

The Kaimakam of Hadjin is a well educated, fairly enlightened, man, of Circassian origin, of Mussulman professed religion, but said to have no strong religious belief of any kind. He is not bigoted, and appears to exercise forbearance towards the Christians and to be generally liked as well as any tax collector can be liked in such a poverty-stricken district.

In spite of the preponderance of Christians in Hadjin I would recommend the continuance of Ismail Bey as a Kaimakam, who behaves very fairly to the Christians.

A Christian Kaimakam, if appointed, would be so hampered with intrigues and false charges that his position, unless he be useless as an official, would not be tenable for one week.

The general situation in Hadjin is quiet, but great poverty prevails, and it is difficult to foretell what may occur there this winter.

I would suggest the necessity of again visiting this neighbourhood during August or September in order to be certain what the prospects of disturbances are and to endeavour to further improve the position of the Christian population. The presence of English and American missionary establishments whose safety depends on my active intervention, to a great extent, demands this trouble and expense.

Sandjak of Djebel Béréket.

The Mutessarif is an energetic man who has gained credit during the late Kurd inroads at Ekbez and Islahié.

The district is quiet and no further disturbances are contemplated at present.

In conclusion, I would say that, at the present time, the state of this province is quiet and, for present political circumstances, fairly satisfactory. Credit must be given, in general, to the energy of the majority of the Government officials who averted serious troubles last winter.

It would appear certain that strict orders for the preservation of order have been received from Constantinople, and until such are cancelled we may look for a continuance of fairly good relations between the two religions.

I trust, by tact and discretion in my action towards the Government officials, as well as by advice to the Christians, to improve the Mussulman feeling towards these people in this province and to secure, before winter, a guarantee of immunity from the troubles which were so disastrous last winter elsewhere.

If the harvest, which is good, brings with it more commercial prosperity and gives bread to the many starving Christians, we may hope to pass through the winter without

further disturbances. The animosity existing towards Christians may then gradually calm down and good relations be re-established.

All depends, however, on the action and wishes of the Head of the Turkish Government, whose orders, so far, have called for obedience; but it is impossible to foretell, from one moment to another, what may occur in a country where the two religions are opposed to each other with such a fanatical hatred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MASSY.

No. 97.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 616.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 3, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 318 of the 22nd April I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting the release of Artin Emmi and the four other Armenians arrested on a charge of having murdered an Armenian named Toros Sinanian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Acting Consul Richards to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Angora, July* 22, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th April reporting the arrest and imprisonment of a certain Artin Emmi and five other persons (four Armenians and one Turk) on a charge of having murdered an Armenian named Toros Sinanian, after breaking into a warehouse of which he was the guardian and attempting to force open a safe therein contained, I have now the honour to inform you that Artin and the four other Armenians have just been discharged, the Turk having been released more than two months ago. I had on more than one occasion approached the Vali with a view to secure his intervention on behalf of these unfortunate Armenians against whom there was not a tittle of evidence worthy the name, but his Excellency always pretexted the independence of the Courts of Justice as a reason for not interfering in the matter. Quite recently, however, on making fresh and more energetic representations on the subject, I succeeded in extorting from Tewfik Pasha a promise that he would look into the matter, and if the result of his investigations were in accord with my statements, he would insist upon the prisoners being released. His Excellency kept his promise on the following day, and two days subsequently, I am glad to say, the order for their discharge was signed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 98.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 618.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 4, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 567 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copies of further telegrams which have passed between Mr. Fitzmaurice and myself, in regard to his proceedings at Birejik. I have been unwilling to allow Mr. Fitzmaurice to proceed to Roum-Kalch alone, as he suggested, not only on account

of the risk attached to such a journey in so fanatical a district, but because it appears to me that if these reconversions to Christianity are to have any weight with the Mussulman population, it is essential that they should be, apparently at any rate, brought about by the Commission especially appointed to inquire into the whole question by the Sultan.

Mr. Fitzmaurice has since informed me that he has dispatched the Protestant pastor to Roum-Kaleh.

Mr. Fitzmaurice appeared to attach so much importance to the question of written guarantees by the Notables of Birejik, that I finally made the suggestion at the Porte and the Palace, but as I anticipated, both the Sultan and the Grand Vizier strongly objected to this proposal, on the ground that it would afford proof of the inability of the Government to maintain order.

I have also received a telegram from Mr. Catoni, who, in accordance with my instructions, has been urging the Vali of Aleppo to consent to a written guarantee, in which he states that Raif Pasha is of opinion that this suggestion offers serious difficulties, but that his Excellency has promised to make an attempt to obtain, if possible, a promise in writing from the Notables.

The Grand Vizier has sent orders to the Vali of Aleppo to have the Reserves at Roum-Kaleh replaced by a battalion of regulars from Birejik, as suggested by Mr. Fitzmaurice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 15, 1896.

DO you want Commission to proceed to villages mentioned, or merely that instructions should be sent to local authorities at Roum-Kaleh? Have you any measures to suggest for security of converts after your departure?

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 16, 1896.

My idea is that instructions should be sent, and that if the desired effect be not produced Commission should then proceed thither. Besides replacing the Reserves, the prominent Mussulmans here should give written guarantees that the Christians will not be molested.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 19, 1896.

One battalion of regular troops has left Aleppo for here.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) *July* , 1896.

Palace in correspondence with Vali of Aleppo in regard to the three villages, and renewed orders have been sent to the authorities to redouble their vigilance in protecting the Christians.

A battalion of regulars will be sent to replace Redifs at Birejik. It would be difficult to ask for a written guarantee.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 20, 1896

Battalion of regulars arrived this morning with excellent effect.

Cypher instructions yesterday passed through telegraph office here to Roum-Kaleh local authorities, and if converts there do not revert at [these] I propose to make flying visit there, subject to your approval.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 21, 1896.

Your telegram of 21st July.

Unless Commissioner accompanies you I think it would be rather risky to visit Roum-Kaleh and other villages where there are no authorites to speak of.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 21, 1896.

Referring to your telegram of 19th July.

Written guarantee though difficult to obtain would give almost absolute security and permit of our earlier departure.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 22, 1896.

Commissioner having no instructions is powerless; Vali cannot interfere in conversion question, whole Palace Commission is in his vilayet; local authorities may be again loose in their duty as during massacre here 1st January, and are powerless to exact written guarantee unless on orders from the Porte or Sultan. Does your Excellency wish me to drop the matter?

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 22, 1896.

Your telegram of yesterday.

Having received assurances from Sultan that the authorities will take every measure to protect Christians, after departure of Commission, I do not like to insist on written guarantee.

Could you persuade Commissioner or Vali to induce Mussulmans to give it? It is the duty of the local authorities to hold leading Mussulmans responsible for order whether there is a written guarantee or not.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 23, 1896.

Your telegram of yesterday.

I will ask for guarantee, but am not sanguine of obtaining it. Continue to urge it locally.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 27, 1896.

Orders not yet received for removal of Reserves, whose departure is more indispensable than the arrival of regulars. Former are no better than Bashi-Bazouks.

Nisibly converts yesterday became Christians, but Roum-Kaleh villagers say that they cannot revert unless I visit them.

With reference to your telegram of 21st June, there is no personal risk, as the local authorities there are the same as here. Five Armenians here still Mussulmans owing to secret threats of massacre after our departure, which proves necessity for guarantee.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 28, 1896.

Your telegram of yesterday.

I do not want you to go to Roum-Kaleh, and, as suggested in your telegram of the 16th instant, I am urging that the Commission should be sent there. I am also pressing for guarantee and removal of Reserves.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

July 29, 1896.

(Telegraphic.)

My telegram of yesterday.

Grand Vizier has telegraphed to Vali of Aleppo in regard to removal of Reserves and departure of Commission for Roum-Kaleh. His Highness also instructed him to take further measures to secure safety of Christian population.

I have telegraphed to Mr. Catoni to urge Vali to consent to written guarantee.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

July 29, 1896.

(Telegraphic.)

Your telegram of yesterday.

Commission ought not to leave here before the tranquillity of this town, which is far from satisfactory, is assured.

Reserves now stationed in Roum-Kaleh villages ought to be replaced by one company of regulars from battalion arrived here.

Mr. Herbert to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice.

July 30, 1896.

(Telegraphic.)

Your telegram of yesterday.

You can suggest to Commission not to proceed to Roum-Kaleh until tranquillity is assured at Birejik, but in any case you should not go there alone. I will speak about Reserves at Roum-Kaleh.

No. 99.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 619.)

Therapia, August 4, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Grand Vizier has informed this Embassy that there have been several encounters between the Druses and the Imperial troops in the Hauran, and that, although the insurgents numbered several thousands, they have been defeated and dispersed by the Turkish soldiers in every engagement. They have, however, succeeded in collecting together again in the hills.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 100.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 621. Confidential.)

Constantinople, August 4, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me by the Rev. F. W. MacCullum, Head of the American Theological Seminary at Marash, and a British subject from Canada, who has recently returned from a tour in the Zeitoun district.

This letter is remarkable for the generally favourable picture which it gives of the state of Zeitoun, and particularly for the statement that the Armenian inhabitants have petitioned that the Mussulman Kaïmakam may not be removed. As this information does not agree with the ideas generally current on the subject, I inquired of Mr. Dwight, the Head of the Stamboul Bible House, whether the other reports received from his agents confirmed Mr. MacCullum's account.

From his reply, which I have the honour to transmit herewith, it is evident that he considers Mr. MacCullum's account as probable in itself, and confirmed by the report of another missionary, Mr. Sanders, also inclosed herewith.

Mr. MacCullum suspects the French Consul at Marash of a tendency to exaggerate. As a contrast to his letter, I inclose a telegram from this official, communicated by the French Embassy, which gives a very different and far more sombre description of Zeitoun.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 100.

The Rev. F. W. MacCullum to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Marash Theological Seminary, July 7, 1896.

I BEG to report that I have just returned from a visit to Zeitoun and the surrounding villages from which the refugees came.

The condition of affairs in Zeitoun is good. The Kaïmakam, Mahmoud Effendi, treats the Christians kindly, and they have no complaint to make of his administration. They even presented a Petition asking that he be not removed. The Protestants did not sign this Petition simply because they did not wish to interfere in what they consider to belong entirely to the will of the Government. The refugees, with the exception of a very few, have returned to their villages. The general health in Zeitoun is good. Zeitounlis cannot go far from home yet, though little by little they are venturing out. The Government promises to protect them, and I think sincerely. Poverty is not so pressing now as it probably will be later, owing to lack of free communication with the outside world. From Albustan large quantities of grain are brought in, but all the profits go to the Turks.

I visited Mukhal, Furnuz, Tanur, Dungel, Kiridj, Geolpoonar, Derman Dere, Tasholook, Geoksoun, Geben, Bunduk, Tavotloo, Shivetgi, Anderin, and Gerinji Kala. In all these places perfect order and a large degree of confidence prevails. Both civil and military authorities unite in protecting the Christians and striving to restore the good relations that existed formerly between the Christians and their Moslem neighbours. The people all speak in the highest terms of praise of the way in which they are being treated. Food supplies at the rate of half-a-kraat of wheat and half-a-kraat of darru per head have been given out in most of these places by the Government. Every facility was offered me in my relief distribution. In Geuksun the Mudir rendered me very substantial help.

These villages are all in ruins; hardly a house is left standing. Throughout all the district I visited the harvest promises to be the most abundant reaped for many years. This will relieve the pressure for food. The great need of the villagers is reaping and ploughing implements, and animals, especially oxen. I have in hand an appropriation from the Red Cross Society for these purposes, but not sufficient to more than supply half the imperative need. After harvest the great problem will be that of rebuilding the houses. In most cases beams, &c., have to be conveyed a considerable distance. But they can at least put up enough this fall to shelter them through the winter. If they were supplied with the necessary tools and animals very little more help would be needed; they are an industrious people. They are now living in little booths and tents.

I was unable to visit the Alabash district. All the villages are in ruins. The rebellion began here, and the people did not sow any seed, so there is no harvest. Consequently they need, and will need, help in food for this year. If oxen and seed and ploughs are given them they can prepare for next year. We are doing all we can for them.

The situation in Marash is for the most part quiet. Last week there occurred a little flurry of fear, but it was soon stamped out by the vigorous action of the Government. Perfect confidence has not been restored, but the Government is doing much to make everything safe.

I cannot help feeling that the Moslems will not really settle down until at least some few of their number have been hanged. Practically, no Moslem has been in any way severely punished for any crime during the last eight months here. If imprisoned they are soon set at liberty again. About seventy-five Armenians are still in prison here for alleged connection with the revolutionary movement. The French Consul appears to be working at cross purposes with the Local Government. I judge his desire is to make out a really worse state of affairs than really exists.

The presence of the Mushir, Edhem Pasha, does much to maintain order. His attitude towards the Armenians is very favourable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. W. MacCULLUM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 100.

Mr. Dwight to Mr. Eliot.

Bible House, July 30, 1896.

Dear Mr. Eliot,

IN reply to your favour of the 28th, I would say that the Rev. F. W. MacCullum is one of our missionaries stationed at Marash. He is a British subject from Canada. I know him well, and he is a clear-headed and well-balanced man, in whose judgment I have very great confidence. Ever since the Zeitoun revolt ceased, Mr. MacCallum has been chiefly occupied with the Relief Committee's work in that town, and has spent the larger part of the time in or about Zeitoun. I consider his opportunities for forming an opinion in the matter to which you refer as altogether exceptional.

Our reports from other sources respecting the general situation in the Province of Aleppo do not combat at all the idea that conditions at Zeitoun have greatly improved. I inclose an extract from a letter just received from the Rev. C. S. Sanders on this subject, remarking that Mr. Sanders has been making somewhat extensive investigations into the condition of the people in different parts of the Province of Aleppo.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) H. O. DWIGHT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 100.

The Rev. C. S. Sanders to Mr. Dwight.

(Confidential.)

Alexandretta, July 17, 1896.

(Extract.)

THE Vali at Aleppo is a very nice man, who seems himself very anxious to do the fair thing by the Armenians. He is, however, very much afraid of Constantinople, and so unable to do sometimes what he wants to do. The local Governors are, of course, not all alike. Just now all the Kaimakamliks which I have visited this side of Aintab have very decent Governors. But the fellow at Aintab is a rascal who seems to have sold himself body and soul to the anti-Christian faction.

It has seemed very pleasant, after being familiar with desolate Ourfa, Adianian, and Severek, to visit the places in the south-west part of the province, where there has been no killing and no robbery to speak of. The people think they are having a hard time with taxes, loss of gains, &c., but I only have to begin telling what I have seen elsewhere to make them feel that they have been exceptionally favoured.

The great danger is that signs multiply of the waning power of the Government to control the Moslem population. . . . . It is the Government itself which is to blame for this. A few executions of Moslems in the principal centres of massacre would have preserved Government authority. To-day, I doubt if the Government could execute a Moslem criminal if it wished to do so.

The Lazarist Monastery at Eybez treated our Protestants with the greatest kindness during all these troubles.

Inclosure 4 in No. 100.

M. Barthélémy to French Embassy at Constantinople.

(Télégraphique.)

Marache, le 29 Juillet, 1896

A ZEITOUN le Caimacam continue à faire des arrestations arbitraires; il exige actuellement sans motif la remise de quarante personnes, dix par quartier. On interdit aux gens de Marache de se rendre à Zeitoun. Les Turcs déclarent qu'il faut détruire

toute la Chrétienté. C'est le mot d'ordre donné par les Beys. Ceux-ci les pires ennemis de la paix, font croire à la Sublime Porte que le rétablissement de l'ordre est subordonné à la destruction de Zeitoun et, par contre-coup, des Missions Catholiques de Yenidjé-Kale, qu'ils regrettent de ne pas avoir anéantis l'hiver passé.

No. 101.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 622.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 4, 1896.

SIR P. CURRIE, in his despatch No. 365 of the 7th May, forwarding a despatch from Mr. Hallward on the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Diarbekir, informed your Lordship of the representations he had made in consequence at the Sublime Porte.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a communication received from the Sublime Porte, in reply to the Memoranda handed in by Her Majesty's Embassy on that and on a previous occasion.

This communication purports to contain the result of careful inquiries into the truth of Mr. Hallward's allegations, but it only supplies another instance of the uselessness of all similar representations to the Sublime Porte, and the impossibility of obtaining an impartial investigation into the outrages and acts of injustice brought to the notice of the Ottoman Government through the despatches of Her Majesty's Consular officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Communication received from the Sublime Porte.

Le 1er Août, 1896.

LE Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Diarbékir, interpellé à propos des faits mentionnés dans les *pro-memorid* de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique en date des 29 Avril et 7 Mai derniers, répond que pendant les troubles survenus dans cette province, des femmes et enfants Chrétiens s'étaient, il est vrai, réfugiés chez des Musulmans, mais qu'après le rétablissement de l'ordre les uns furent amenés au konak par les personnes mêmes auprès desquelles ils s'étaient réfugiés et les autres par des agents de l'autorité et remis à leur parents ou chefs spirituels.

A la suite des démanchor du Vice-Consul de France, des fonctionnaires spéciaux ont été également envoyés dans tous les villages du vilayet, mais ils ne purent, malgré des recherches minutieuses, découvrir qu'une femme, une fille et deux enfants qui conduits à Diarbékir ont été confiés au chef de leur communauté.

Les autorités Impériales n'ont aucune connaissance du cas des deux femmes Protestantes de Kitterbil, nommées Repega et Yester, et les recherches effectuées à leur sujet dans toutes les dépendances du vilayet sont restées également sans effet.

Toutes les fois que les autorités Impériales sont avisées de la présence de femmes ou enfants Chrétiens chez les Musulmans, elles les font venir immédiatement, et les remettent à leurs parents. Elles ne procèdent à aucune formalité à l'égard de ceux d'entre eux qui se refusent à aller rejoindre leurs parents en déclarant avoir embrassé l'Islamisme.

Le fait que les désordres survenus dans le vilayet avaient été provoqués par les Arméniens eux-mêmes se trouvait établie par des preuves authentiques, il est absolument injuste de vouloir en faire retomber la responsabilité sur les Musulmans.

L'assertion d'après laquelle Ahmed Effendi, de Mardin, avait beaucoup contribué à susciter des troubles dans ce district est d'autant moins exacte que lors de son dernier voyage à Diarbekir, les chefs des communautés Chrétiennes avaient prié les autorités Impériales de le récompenser des services signalés qu'il avait rendus pendant les désordres.

Le Vice-Consul de France avait lui-même fait d'une manière privée des démarches dans le même sens auprès de son Excellence Abdullah Pacha.

Quant à Rechid Bey, Chef de la tribu de Reyki, qui est accusé d'avoir pillé quelques villages, il avait été, il est vrai, conduit au chef-lieu du vilayet à la suite de certaines plaintes formulées contre lui, mais sa culpabilité n'ayant pu être établie il fut autorisé à retourner à Mardin. Le Gouverneur de ce sandjak a fait savoir en dernier lieu que Rechid Bey avait contribué beaucoup à la découverte et à la restitution à leurs propriétaires des objets volés pendant les troubles.

Hadji Rechid Agha, de Silvan, Hakki Bey, Sadik Bey, et Moukerrem Bey avaient été appelés à Diarbékir non point pour avoir provoqué les désordres mais bien pour être consultés sur les mesures à prendre pour le maintien de l'ordre public et la réorganisation des communes.

Moukerrem Bey se trouve actuellement détenu à Diarbékir à la suite d'un procès intenté contre lui par un Musulman pour attentat aux mœurs et le dossier de l'instruction effectuée au sujet des faits attribués à Sadik Bey a été remis au Tribunal compétent. Hadji Rechid Agha, Hakki Bey, et les autres Notables qui s'étaient rendus avec eux au chef-lieu du vilayet, furent autorisés à rentrer chez eux après que les autorités Impériales aient pris leur avis.

La liste ci-jointe remise par le Substitut du Procureur-Général du vilayet, indique les noms des détenus tant Musulmans que Chrétiens qui avaient pris part aux troubles, les charges qui pèsent sur eux et le point auquel l'instruction judiciaire est arrivé.

Quant aux nécessiteux, les autorités Impériales pourvoient encore aujourd'hui à leurs besoins en leur restituant les vivres et autres objets qui leur avaient été enlevés lors des désordres et en leur fournissant des céréales.

Lors de sa dernière tournée à Silvan, le Vali avait fait acheter au moyen des sommes fournies par la Banque Agricole des instruments aratoires qui furent remis aux cultivateurs Chrétiens, lesquels ont pu, grâce à cette assistance prêtée par le Gouvernement Impérial, cultiver leurs champs, moissonner leurs récoltes et réparer aussi leurs maisons endommagées.

L'assertion d'après laquelle les autorités de Silvan auraient exigé d'anciens arriérés d'impôts est absolument fausse. Les dites autorités tâchent naturellement, comme il est de leur devoir, d'assurer la rentrée des redevances fiscales, mais elles n'exigent pas le paiement immédiat de ceux des habitants qui ne sont pas à même de les acquitter. Comme cependant certains individus parmi les Chrétiens et surtout les Arméniens cherchent, bien qu'ils jouissent de l'aisance, à se dérober au paiement de leurs dette envers le fisc sous prétexte que quelques-uns des membres de leurs familles seraient décédés ou absents, une Commission composée de fonctionnaires et de Notables Musulmans de Chrétiens de Silvan a été chargée de dresser une liste exacte de tous les contribuables du district et de l'envoyer au chef-lieu de la province pour servir de base aux modifications qui devraient être apportées aux inscriptions des registres.

Dans le district de Tahori les terrains de quelques villages sont institués en Vakf, au nom des Notables, et non seulement les cultivateurs Chrétiens, mais les Musulmans eux-mêmes, n'en sont que les locataires.

Bien que cet état de choses subsiste depuis plusieurs années les agitateurs, profitant de la situation actuelle, cherchent à faire accroire que des empiètements sont commis sur leurs propriété . S'ils ont de pareilles revendications, ils n'ont qu'à les faire valoir devant le Tribunal compétent.

Pendant les désordres, quelques habitants tant de Silvan que de certaines autres localités ont, il est vrai, embrassé l'Islamisme, mais les autorités Impériales n'ont pas accompli les formalités officielles pour leur conversion.

Aucune pression n'est exercée pas plus à l'égard de ceux qui ont déclaré vouloir rester Musulmans que de ceux qui retournent à leur ancienne croyance, et tous les habitants du vilayet continuent à jouir d'une pleine et entière liberté de conscience.

La plupart des objets enlevés pendant les troubles ont été déjà découverts et restitués à leurs propriétaires, comme il est établi par les inscriptions des registres des Commissions instituées à cet effet.

Les informations qui précèdent étant strictement conformes à la vérité, les renseignements contraires contenus dans les *pro-memorid* précités ne peuvent avoir été fournis qu'à l'instigation de certains gens intéressés qui ne cessent depuis quelque temps de lancer des calomnies contre les Musulmans.

Annexe.

HASSAN EFFENDI, de Kourmouch, son fils Suleiman, et Ibrahim Kinhra, de Bismil, prévenus d'avoir enlevé pendant les désordres les bestiaux du commerçant Mighirdidj, du village de Keui-Bekian.

ARRÊTÉS le 28 Janvier dernier (v. s.), et déférés à la juridiction criminelle par un Arrêt en date du 23 Avril dernier (v. s.).

Mustapha Bey-bin-Abdoullah, du village de Chehuban, commune d'Ekib, et Ala Ketchel, du village de Fadilan, prévenus de pillage pendant les troubles dans le village de Ritterbil.

Arrêtés le 28 Janvier dernier (v. s.) et déférés à la juridiction criminelle par un Arrêt en date du 11 Mars dernier (v. s).

Ibrahim-bin-Hassan et Yakoub-bin-Youssouf, du village de Hablan (district de Derek), et Deli-bin-Ali, du village de Chemkian, dépendant du même district, prévenus d'avoir pris part à l'attaque pendant les désordres du village de Chekerli.

Arrêtés le 24 Janvier dernier (v. s.). L'instruction est sur le point d'être terminée.

Sadik Bey, Notable de Silvan, et son domestique, Mallah Suleiman Mollah Hassan, Mahmoud, Ahmed, Hussein, Gerss Ahmed, Cherif, Dana Hatib, Mehemmed, Cherif, Hussein, Hassan, et Hamzé.

Arrêtés le 3 Février dernier (v. s.) pour avoir attaqué, après les désordres, le village de Khechter et blessé quelques Chrétiens. Le Juge d'Instruction de Silvan avait commencé l'instruction de cette affaire, mais comme l'influence dont Sadik Bey jouit dans ce district pouvait empêcher que cette instruction fut conduite en toute impartialité, le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet a demandé au Département Impérial de la justice que l'affaire soit transférée dans un autre vilayet, mais sa réponse n'est pas encore arrivée.

Galli Bey, prévenu de s'être introduit dans la maison de Murad Oglou Serkis, de la commune de Tchoukech, et d'avoir volé son argent et les harnachements de ses chevaux.

Comme Galli Bey est un des Notables influents, la Cour de Cassation a décidé de transférer l'affaire au chef-lieu du vilayet pour en assurer le jugement impartial.

Sitch Baba, fils d'Arach; Ohan, fils de Manouk; Sipek, fils de Minas, du quartier de Fatih Pacha, prévenus d'avoir tenté d'incendier, avec des chiffons imbibés de pétrole, les quartiers Musulmans.

Arrêtés le 19 Novembre dernier (v. s.) et déférés à la juridiction criminelle par un Arrêt en date du 31 Janvier dernier (v. s.).

Ohan, fils de Vartan, du quartier de Khultchik.

Arrêté le 26 Novembre dernier pendant les désordres au moment où il s'était rendu tout armé au bureau télégraphique dans le but de tuer le Directeur des Télégraphes, et déféré à la juridiction criminelle par un Arrêt en date du 3 Décembre dernier (v. s.).

Mighirdidj, fils d'Ohannès, du quartier de Kadi Djam; Nerses, fils de Guirabo; Garabet, fils d'Aroch; et Avedis, fils d'Ohannès de Saloro, dans les maisons desquels ont été trouvés de la poudre, des cartouches, et des bombes.

Arrêtés le 27 Novembre dernier (v. s.), et déférés à la juridiction criminelle par un Arrêt en date du 2 Décembre dernier (v. s.).

Thomas, fils de Youssouf, du quartier de Cheikh Saïd; Sotchch et Bikho, fils de Mano, habitant l'église Arménienne, prévenus d'avoir provoqué des troubles et tiré sur les passants et les maisons Musulmanes.

Arrêtés le 28 Novembre dernier (v. s.), et déférés à la juridiction criminelle par un Arrêt.

Nombre des détenus :

Musulmans	..	..	..	24
Arméniens	..	..	..	11

No. 102.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 624.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 5, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 618 of yesterday I have the honour to inclose copy of a telegram which I received on the 31st ultimo from Mr. Fitzmaurice, stating that the new Kaïmakam of Birejik had officially recognized eight Armenians as Mussulmans, and that most of these men, if not all, had been converted through fear.

In a subsequent telegram Mr. Fitzmaurice stated that the formalities in connection with these conversions were hurriedly gone through and were defective, as the priest in attendance was Gregorian, whereas three of the Armenians were Protestant and two Catholic.

On receipt of this information I at once wrote a note to Tewfik Pasha, copy of which is also inclosed, and sent Mr. Maninitch to the Palace to remonstrate against this action of the Kaïmakam, and to request the Imperial authorities to disavow these renewed forced conversions, which, in the face of the Sultan's promises, would produce a most deplorable effect in Europe.

The Sultan, through Izzet Bey, admitted that the Kaïmakam had shown too much zeal in dealing with these conversions, and stated that the Grand Vizier would be directed to instruct the Kaïmakam to refrain from recognizing such conversions in the future. The next day the Grand Vizier stated that he had telegraphed to the Vali of Aleppo that the Kaïmakam's action was contrary to the previous instructions of the Porte, and that, consequently, the Armenians should be left free to return to Christianity, and on the following day (2nd August) Mr. Fitzmaurice telegraphed that the local authorities withdrew the recognition of the eight converts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 102.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *Birejik, July 30, 1896.*

NEW Kaïmakam arrived here to-day and officially recognized eight Armenians as Mussulmans. Most of them, if not all, are Mussulman by fear.

Is this new process on orders from Constantinople, and is it to be extended here and elsewhere to converts?

Matter most urgent.

Inclosure 2 in No. 102.

Mr. Herbert to Tewfik Pasha.

Therapia, le 31 Juillet, 1896.

Mon cher Ministre,

MR. FITZMAURICE me télégraphie de Birejek que le nouveau Caïmacan de cette ville qui est arrivé hier, vient de reconnaître officiellement, comme Musulmans, huit Arméniens qui ont été forcés de changer leur foi par la peur.

Votre Excellence doit savoir aussi bien que moi quel effet déplorable cette conduite de la part du Caïmacan produira en Europe, et j'ai espéré que le Gouvernement Ottoman désavouera immédiatement l'action de ce fonctionnaire et qu'il lui enverra des ordres catégoriques pour empêcher une répétition de ces conversions forcées qui seront sans doute mal vues par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Il est très regrettable que les mesures sages que Sa Majesté Impériale a daigné faire exécuter à Birejik perdent leur valeur à la suite de l'action d'un fonctionnaire subordonné.

(Signé) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 103.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 625.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 5, 1896.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch of to-day, I have the honour to inclose copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice urging the exile from Birejik of Ahmed Effendi, the Mayor of that town, who, it appears, was one of the chief instigators of the massacres there, and who is one of the chief obstacles to the restoration of tranquillity.

The Grand Vizier, in reply to my representations on the subject, has telegraphed to the Vali of Aleppo to cause inquiries to be made in regard to this individual, and should the charges made against him be proved, to dismiss him from his post and to have him sent to Aleppo.

The French Embassy, at my request, have, I believe, also requested the Turkish Government to remove Ahmed Effendi from Birejik.

The Grand Vizier has instructed the Commission, before its departure, to convoke the leading Mussulmans and Christians at Birejik and give them conciliatory advice, and His Highness also directed the local authorities to have the Armenian quarter frequently patrolled, to increase the number of guard-houses, and to take every measure to insure the safety of the Armenians when the Commission leaves Birejik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *Birejik, July 31, 1896.*

I HAVE traced recent uneasiness here to Ahmed Effendi, Mayor of this town, mentioned in my despatch of the 12th June from Aleppo. He is generally known as one of chief instigators (of) massacre here, and recently declared in Council: "Let Armenians go to hell rather than become Christians here."

He is and always will be bitterly opposed to their reverting, and is the seat of any disorder which may arise here.

As long as he remains here as Mayor it is hopeless to expect lasting tranquillity.

He must be exiled, at least at once dismissed from present post.

I hear French Embassy has been informed regarding him, and might support representations on subject.

Your Excellency's telegram of yesterday received.

I have dispatched the Protestant pastor to Roum-Kaleh.

No. 104.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 626. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of the Report drawn up by Colonel de Vialar, Military Attaché to the French Embassy, who was sent to investigate the murder of Père Salvatore, Superior of the Franciscan Monastery of Mudjuk-Deressi, near Marash.

This Report has been communicated to me by the French Ambassador, who is anxious that it should be considered as strictly confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel de Vialar as to the Murder of Père Salvatore.

DÈS le milieu du mois de Décembre dernier le bruit commençait à se répandre que le Père Salvatore, religieux Italien de l'Ordre des Franciscains de Terre-Sainte, Président du couvent de Mudjuk-Déressi, près Marache, avait été tué dans les derniers jours du mois de Novembre précédent.

Cette nouvelle, vague d'abord, encore incertaine, s'accréditait ensuite peu à peu et s'étayait progressivement de renseignements et de détails que recueillait avec un soin et une prudence auxquels nous nous plaisons à rendre hommage le Gérant du Consulat de France à Alep, M. Barthélemy.

La partie nord du Vilayet d'Alep était profondément troublée à cette époque; des massacres avaient eu lieu, la terreur y régnait; les Chrétiens n'osaient s'aventurer en dehors des villes et des villages. La marche lente des nouvelles ne doit donc pas surprendre. Mais pour marcher lentement elles ne se complétaient pas moins chaque jour et en Janvier 1896 aucun doute ne pouvait plus subsister ni sur le massacre du Père Salvatore et avec lui d'un certain nombre de Catholiques Latins de son village, tous placés sous le Protectorat de la France, ni sur la part qu'avaient prise à ce massacre des troupes régulières de l'armée Impériale Ottomane.

A la fin de Janvier, une demande d'explications fut adressée à la Sublime Porte par l'Ambassade de France à Constantinople. Elle resta sans réponse. Enfin, sur de longues et pressantes instances, au commencement d'Avril, par ordre de Sa Majesté elle-même une Commission fut constituée. Elle avait la mission de se rendre sur place pour se livrer à une enquête sur les faits révélés.

Cette Commission se composait :—

1. D'Emin Effendi, Juge au Tribunal de Première Instance de Stamboul.
2. De Ohannes Effendi, Juge au Tribunal de Première Instance de Péra.
3. Du Colonel Sadik Bey, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté Impériale.
4. Du Lieutenant-Colonel Abd-ul-Rahim Bey, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté Impériale.
5. Du Lieutenant-Colonel de Vialar, Attaché Militaire à l'Ambassade de France, Délégué Français.

Elle quitta Constantinople le Mardi, 7 Avril, 1896, et se trouva réunie à Marache (Vilayet d'Alep) le 22 du même mois.

Elle commença ses travaux le lendemain 23.

Pour l'intelligence des faits qui vont suivre il est nécessaire de donner ici sur le Sandjak de Marache quelques indications géographiques. Nous le ferons aussi succinctement que possible.

Le territoire du Sandjak de Marache est généralement montagneux; on y trouve cependant quelques belles plaines, entre autres celle dite de Marache au sud de la ville et dominée par elle. Cette plaine est arrosée par deux rivières, l'Ak-Sou et l'Erkénes-Sou, qui après s'être réunies vont se jeter à une vingtaine de kilomètres au sud-ouest de la ville dans le fleuve Djihan, l'ancien Pyramus.

Le Djihan prend sa source non loin d'Elbistan au nord-est du Sandjak de Marache; il court dans une direction générale nord-est sud-ouest, passe à 12 kilom. environ à l'ouest de Marache, est grossi par un torrent, le Gheudjek et plus loin par une petite rivière le Kersoulou, coulant tous deux dans une direction nord-sud, dans la partie du moins qui nous intéresse.

La région qui est comprise entre le Djihan et le Gheudjek est connue sous le nom de Nadirli; elle est parsemée de villages. La région qui s'étend au delà de Gheudjek porte le nom de Yénidjé-Kalé. C'est dans cette région de Yénidjé-Kalé que se trouvent les trois villages Chrétiens avec chacun leur couvent :—

1. Mudjuk-Déressi. Président du couvent, Père Salvatore.
2. Dangalé. Président du couvent, Père Emmanuel Trigo.
3. Buyuk-Keuy, ou Nassara-Keuy, ou Ghinour-Keuy, ou Yénidjé Kalé, nom donné plus particulièrement même par les Pères Franciscains. Président du couvent, Père Emmanuel Garcia.

(Les couvents de Mudjuk-Déressi et de Buyuk-Keuy ont été complètement pillés et incendiés. Celui de Dangalé a été pillé seulement.)

Au-dessus et à 2 kilom. environ de Mudjuk-Déressi est le village Musulman de Kaïchli.

La Commission a eu pendant plusieurs jours beaucoup de peine à comprendre cette

division, tous les témoins donnant indistinctement dans leurs dépositions le nom de Nadirli à tous les villages de la région de Nadirli, et le nom de Yénidje-Kalé à tous les villages de la région de Yénidjé-Kalé. Elle se fut évité cette peine en se rendant plus tôt sur les lieux; mais les membres de la Commission ne comprirent pas tous ou ne voulurent pas comprendre qu'il fût utile de le faire.

Nous avons dit plus haut que la situation était troublée dans le Vilayet d'Alep pendant les derniers mois de 1895. Elle l'était principalement dans le Sandjak de Marache.

En effet, à Marache même, le 25 Octobre, un Arménien, Garabet Topalian, était assassiné.

Le 26 Octobre, les Turcs du quartier de Karamanli attaquaient et blessaient plusieurs Chrétiens, pillaient des boutiques.

Le 27 et 28 Octobre se produisait une nouvelle agression contre les Chrétiens; plusieurs étaient tués ou blessés; des boutiques étaient pillées.

Le 3 Novembre, un Dimanche, des Chrétiens au nombre de vingt à vingt-cinq étaient massacrés.

Le 18 Novembre enfin, 700 à 800 Chrétiens étaient impitoyablement massacrés et la troupe prenait part à cette boucherie.

Dans les villages Chrétiens des environs les craintes étaient vives.

Le 1er Novembre le Père Salvatoire écrivait de Mudjuk-Déressi à son confrère le Père Dionisio, Président du couvent de Marache: "Il y a quatre jours que je n'ai pas dormi, les menaces continuent dans les environs et l'on est véritablement à la dernière extrémité. Que le Seigneur nous conserve!"

Le 7 Novembre dans une nouvelle lettre il disait: "Pour le moment nous sommes encore en vie, mais toujours sur notre garde, parce que de tous côtés nous sommes entourés de voleurs qui ne cherchent qu'à piller."

C'est la dernière lettre qu'on ait reçue de lui à Marache. Le danger lui paraissait si pressant qu'il demandait qu'on lui envoyât deux zaptiés fidèles pour l'accompagner à Marache parce que là-bas on ne pouvait plus vivre.

Avant d'aller plus loin nous devons signaler l'état d'esprit des membres Ottomans de la Commission tel qu'il nous apparût dans le commencement des travaux de l'enquête.

Si nous avons trouvé en eux des collègues pleins de prévenances et de politesse nous n'avons pas trouvé des collaborateurs suffisamment animés du désir de découvrir la vérité quelle qu'elle fût. La préoccupation de jeter un voile sur un passé douloureux, compromettant pour l'armée Turque, semblait les dominer.

En réalité les détails du crime que la Commission était chargée d'instruire n'étaient plus depuis longtemps secrets; ils étaient connus de tous dans le monde Musulman; les autorités et les membres Ottomans de la Commission ne pouvaient pas les ignorer.

Il me suffira pour l'établir de citer quelques faits :

Le 26 Novembre le Gérant du Consulat de France à Alep télégraphiait qu'un Rédif libéré avait assisté à l'incendie par les troupes du couvent de Mudjuk-Déressi.

Des militaires du bataillon de Karlek ont raconté à Zéitoun la scène du meurtre. (Dépositions 12 et 12 *bis*).

Le chirurgien de ce même bataillon a remis le soir même du meurtre un cierge retiré de mains du Père Salvatore au moment où il tombait percé de coups de baïonnettes. Il a aussi raconté la scène du meurtre dans tous ses détails.

Un soldat libéré du bataillon de Killis m'a fait des révélations en tous points conformes à celles que l'enquête a établies.

La rumeur publique parlait d'une manière identique sur plusieurs points à la fois éloignés les uns des autres et tous ces témoignages provenaient de témoins oculaires ou d'auteurs du crime dispersés après le drame.

La véritable mission des Délégués était donc de faire la preuve juridique des faits dont l'exactitude n'était douteuse pour personne. C'était dans ce sens que l'enquête devait être dirigée.

Cette enquête a été faite, mais elle a été conduite avec peu de précision; j'ai eu à lutter pour arriver à faire poser des questions toutes naturelles; mes collègues Ottomans me tenaient en état de quarantaine morale; je n'existais pour eux qu'aux heures de l'instruction et des repas. Tous ces signes permettent de penser que certains membres au moins de la Commission étaient désireux d'obscurcir la vérité, de disculper les troupes du massacre commis par elles, et d'en rejeter la responsabilité, autant que possible, sur d'autres, sur des Zéitounlis ou des Bachi-Bozzouks.

Le crime était ancien déjà; il remontait à près de cinq mois; on pouvait compter sur le silence ou la complaisance des témoins Musulmans; les Chrétiens apeurés n'oseraient sans doute pas parler et d'ailleurs leur témoignage pourrait être déclaré suspect; les corps des victimes avaient été brûlés et toute trace avait dû disparaître.

Toutes ces circonstances pouvaient facilement être mises en œuvre pour contrecarrer l'enquête et devaient être utilisées par ceux qui cherchaient à étouffer l'affaire.

Ces préliminaires posés, nous entrons dans le vif de la question et nous allons montrer comment, malgré tout, la vérité apparaît nettement.

Nous suivrons l'ordre des faits tel qu'il ressort de l'instruction et, pour abréger ce Rapport, nous renverrons autant que possible, pour les explications, aux interrogatoires qui sont numérotés et aux notes explicatives qui sont annexées à chacun d'eux.

Pour des causes que nous n'avons pas à rechercher, des troupes furent expédiées de Marache le 15 Novembre, 1895, dans la nuit, à Mudjuk-Déressi; elles étaient placées sous les ordres du Colonel Mazhar Bey.

Quelles étaient ces troupes? D'après le renseignement officiel fourni par l'autorité militaire, Mazhar Bey partit de Marache avec deux bataillons; le troisième du 35e Régiment d'Infanterie du Nizam (Commandant Djawid Effendi), et le bataillon de Rédifs dit de Karlek, du nom du quartier d'Alep qui fournit à son recrutement (Commandant Mohammed Nazif Effendi).

Ce bataillon est le 1er bataillon du 73e Régiment de Rédifs.

Dans son interrogatoire, Mazhar Bey d'abord ne se souvient pas très bien. Il croit être parti avec les deux bataillons sus-indiqués, puis il se reprend et affirme qu'il n'est parti qu'avec le bataillon de Nizam; qu'il a pris en route après le passage du Djihan, le bataillon de Karlek.

Et en effet c'est là la vérité.

(Voir déposition du Commandant Mohammed Nazif Effendi du bataillon de Karlek, No. 54.)

Nous n'appuyons sur cette contradiction que pour montrer l'indécision qui s'accuse dès le commencement dans la déposition de ce témoin et l'inexactitude d'un des seuls renseignements officiels qui nous aient été communiqués, extrait par la Commission, du dossier à elle remis par l'autorité militaire. (Ce dossier nous a paru assez volumineux.)

Ces deux bataillons réunis sous le commandement du Colonel Mazhar Bey, arrivèrent à Mudjuk-Déressi le 16 Novembre, un Samedi, vers la fin de l'après-midi. Ils posèrent leur camp entre le village Musulman de Kaïchli et le village Chrétien de Mudjuk-Déressi, mais tout près de ce dernier.

Nous assistons alors à un phénomène singulier.

C'est joie et fête généralement, lorsque, dans une région troublée, on voit arriver la troupe. Ne doit-elle pas apporter l'ordre et la sécurité?

Ici, nous voyons, au contraire, la terreur s'emparer de tous les habitants Chrétiens, car ils s'enfuient de tous côtés, la crainte naître même dans l'esprit du Père Salvatore et cette terreur et ces craintes étaient bien justifiées ainsi que le constatent de nombreuses dépositions (voir dépositions Nos. 2, 3, 18, 18 *bis*, 19, 20, 21, 29, 36, 37, 62), puisque ces sauveurs incendient plusieurs maisons du village, poursuivent les habitants, en tuent quelques-uns. Ce n'est pas tout. Ce même soir ou un des jours suivants, le Père Salvatore, dans son couvent, est menacé, frappé, blessé à la jambe d'un coup de baïonnette; des femmes sont saisies et consignées, ainsi que ceux des hommes qui n'ont pu s'enfuir, dans le couvent entouré de sentinelles et gardé à vue.

Quelques témoins qui ont assisté à cette scène ont cru que le Père Salvatore avait été tué ce jour là. Réfugiés plus tard à Zéitoun, ils y annoncèrent que le Père Salvatore avait été tué à coups de baïonnettes dans son couvent. C'était une erreur. Ce jour là il n'avait été que blessé; il ne fut tué que quelques jours après. (Voir dépositions.)

Mazhar Bey avec ses deux bataillons resta campé entre Kaïchli et Mudjuk-Déressi cinq jours, les 17, 18, 19, 20, et 21 Novembre (il était arrivé le 16 au soir).

Une bande d'insurgés de Zéitoun, de Fernez, de Guében, &c., opérait dans la région. Mazhar Bey dut se porter à sa rencontre avec une partie de son contingent, et il eut avec elle quelques engagements près de Buyuk-keuy. Bien que très supérieur en nombre, malgré un armement supérieur, l'avantage ne lui resta pas. Nous en trouvons le témoignage dans les dépositions mêmes de ses deux binbachis et nous apprenons d'eux que, laissant au feu les troupes avec lesquelles il était parti, il retourna au camp, de sa personne, sous le prétexte d'y chercher du secours en hommes et en munitions. (Voir dépositions Nos. 53 et 54.)

"Les malfaiteurs se sont précipités sur nous, nous ont *cernés* et j'ai été blessé au pied," dit le guide Ahmed-ben-Hussein. (Voir déposition No. 25.)

Mazhar Bey envoya directement ce blessé à l'hôpital de Marache pour le faire soigner et lui remit à son départ une lettre de recommandation pour le médecin militaire, datée du 20 Novembre avec un post-scriptum daté du 21. Elle nous sert à établir que ce n'est que le lendemain 22 Novembre que Mazhar Bey a quitté Mudjuk-Déressi, car s'il était parti le 21 il aurait emmené avec lui le blessé. Cette date du retour de Mazhar Bey

qu'il importe de fixer, puisque c'est celle du meurtre, nous a été également donnée par l'État-Major. Inquiet sur son retour Mazhar Bey dépêcha un express à Marache pour demander de faire garder le pont de Djihan.

Le Père Salvatore, que Mazhar Bey reconnaît bien avoir vu à Mudjuk-Déressi pendant la durée de son séjour, mais qu'il prétend avoir vu pour la dernière fois, la veille du départ des troupes, traitait de son mieux officiers et soldats. Ils leur donnait à boire et à manger. (Voir dépositions Nos. 3 et 21, notamment celle de la femme Almas qui servait elle-même les invités. Voir aussi notes explicatives.)

Mazhar Bey prétend au contraire, et il y revient plusieurs fois, que c'est lui qui donna des provisions. C'est inadmissible car il ne devait pas en avoir de trop, à moins qu'elles ne provinssent des habitations pillées par sa troupe, ce qu'il ne reconnaît pas. Nous savons par contre que le couvent de Mudjuk-Déressi était largement pourvu.

Nous arrivons enfin à la journée du 22 Novembre.

Le Col-Aghassi Saïd Bey, venu avec le bataillon de Killis, avait apporté de Marache l'ordre de retour et, de bon matin on abattit les tentes et on plia bagage.

Mais, en même temps, se passait une scène importante, et les témoins qui la racontent sont nombreux.

On faisait descendre de l'étage supérieur, le Père Salvatore et les Chrétiens qui n'avaient pas pu s'enfuir et qu'on gardait; on séparait les hommes des femmes, on confiait ces dernières au Mudir après avoir dit aux hommes de bien les regarder, de les regarder une dernière fois (on faisait signe de la main qu'on allait faire périr ceux-ci), on les garottait avec une pièce de corde prise au couvent.

Les troupes se forment en ordre et on va se mettre en marche.

Le Père Salvatore, blessé à la jambe, demande un cheval, on le lui refuse. Il aurait pu s'enfuir peut-être. Lui a-t-on lié les mains comme aux autres? Nous ne saurions l'affirmer, tous les témoins n'étant pas d'accord sur ce point. Nous osons espérer et nous avons des raisons de croire que cette dernière injure ne lui fut pas infligée, puisque nous savons qu'il tenait en main un cierge et son bréviaire, ce cierge qui lui fut retiré au moment du massacre, qui nous fut livré quelque temps après à Zéitoun et que nous possédons.

Cette scène du départ nous est racontée par des témoins oculaires.

C'est Lucique, fille d'Ayoub (déposition No. 3); c'est Marguérid, fille de Kévork (déposition No. 13); c'est Marguérid, fille d'Agop Sarkis (déposition No. 14); c'est Terfendé, fille de Gaspar (déposition No. 15); c'est Almas, fille de Mogdissi Kakor (déposition No. 21); c'est Marguérid, fille de Manouk (déposition No. 52).

Ce sont toutes des femmes et pour cause: des hommes, des Chrétiens du moins qui se trouvaient là, pas un n'est revenu.

Leurs dépositions sont formelles dans leur ensemble; mais ce que nous ne retrouvons pas sur ces feuilles, c'est l'accent de vérité, c'est le sentiment de douleur profonde et résignée qui nous ont touché et ému aussi bien dans le prétoire que sur place, lorsqu'elles nous indiquaient de la main, la voie douloureuse suivie par leur pasteur, leurs voisins ou leurs parents.

Avec le Père Salvatore il y avait:

Erémia, son domestique;
Baldji Ohannès (oncle de Mariem);
Kodajnin Oglou Hadjir;
David Oglou David;
Kochker Dimbalaq, autrement dit Vartivar;
Kouradji Oglou Ziroun;
Tadji Krikor, et son fils Léon;
Vanès Oglou Simon, et un autre peut-être encore.

Mais qu'importe le nombre?

A ce moment précis, le matin du départ de Mudjuk-Déressi, le Vendredi, 22 Novembre, il est certain que le Père Salvatore était entre les mains du Colonel Mazhar Bey. Il est également certain qu'il fut emmené lui et ses compagnons avec les troupes.

Que sont devenus ces prisonniers?

Nous avons vu que deux chemins conduisent de Mudjuk-Déressi à Marache ou plutôt au pont de Djihan, car c'est auprès de ce pont que ces deux routes se rencontrent. L'un, celui d'hiver, est plus long; il franchit le Ker-oulou sur un pont. L'autre, celui d'été, plus court que le premier, franchit le Kersoulou à gué.

C'est ce dernier, c'est le chemin de la vallée que prit le Colonel.

Mazhar Bey, quand il a été interrogé, a cherché à nous conduire sur le premier de ces chemins.

Ses officiers, des témoins Musulmans, font de même ; ils parlent ainsi parce qu'ils veulent que nous ne trouvions rien.

Mais cette route était fermée aux troupes ; elles y auraient été harcelées sur leur flanc gauche par les bandes d'insurgés qui les jours précédents leur avaient avantageusement tenu tête ; une poignée d'entre eux eut suffi pour infliger à Mazhar Bey des pertes sérieuses au passage du Kersoulou, étroit, difficile, dominé.

C'était ce dernier et non celui du Djihan qu'il fallait garder.

Mazhar Bey y avait songé trop tard.

D'ailleurs il se trahit lui-même ; ses troupes formées, il dit les avoir mises en marche au commandement de "demi à droite."

Cette direction de "demi à droite" c'est celle du chemin qui conduit au gué, passe ensuite près du moulin et plus loin près du ravin où ont été retrouvés les ossements des victimes avant la traversée du Gheudjek.

Les bataillons du Colonel Mazhar Bey ont passé par le gué ; plusieurs témoins qui suivaient anxieusement leur marche ont vu de Dungalé les troupes le franchir. (Dépositions Nos. 63, 64, et 65.)

Mazhar Bey a passé par le gué. Un soldat libéré du bataillon de Killis, que nous avons interrogé nous-mêmes en dehors de l'enquête, à qui nous avons posé la question sans indication pouvant lui faire soupçonner sa gravité, nous a répondu : "Nous avons passé le gué, nous avions de l'eau jusqu'à mi-jambe ; le bataillon de Karlek était devant nous ; j'ai vu le prêtre et les Arméniens passer l'eau."

Il suffit de lire la déposition du Colonel Mazhar Bey pour juger de son trouble. Il cherche à dégager sa responsabilité ; alors il nous dit qu'un quart d'heure après le départ, il est parti en avant des troupes avec le Col-Achassi Said Bey pour choisir le lieu du campement, laissant, par conséquent, ses bataillons en arrière.

Mais avant il nous avait dit que deux heures après le départ, le bataillon de Karlek s'était séparé des autres, et que lui-même avait marché avec les bataillons du Nizam et de Killis.

Ce n'est pas tout ; plus tard il nous dit qu'après avoir donné le commandement de "marche" il a pris place à la tête de la colonne et il ne parle pas de l'avoir quittée.

Mazhar Bey déclare qu'il ne sait pas quand le bataillon de Karlek s'est séparé de lui ; qu'il ignore le chemin pris par ce bataillon pour rentrer à Marache.

Mais le Commandant du bataillon de Karlek affirme qu'à Nadirli, c'est-à-dire, après le passage du Gheudjek, c'est Mazhar Bey qui lui a donné l'ordre de continuer sur Marache et qui lui a indiqué sa route.

En présence des contradictions de Mazhar Bey et des déclarations des témoins il n'y a pas de doute possible.

La preuve est faite. Les trois bataillons sont restés sous les ordres de Mazhar Bey jusqu'à Nadili, c'est-à-dire, jusqu'après le passage du Geudjek.

Ils étaient sous ses ordres pendant la halte où le crime fut commis.

Les dépositions des officiers supérieurs sont, comme celle de Mazhar Bey, pleines de craintes et de contradictions. Ils sont trois, et chacun d'eux donne sur l'ordre de la marche une version différente.

La vérité se dégage cependant inattaquable.

Nous avons quitté Mudjuk-Déressi avec le Colonel Mazhar Bey ; nous avons passé avec lui le Kersoulou à gué ; nous l'avons suivi jusqu'à Nadirli, nous l'y laissons.

Ce sont des témoins oculaires qui nous ont fait assister au départ de Mudjuk-Déressi de la triste caravane.

C'est encore un témoin oculaire qui va maintenant nous représenter le drame que nous sommes venus éclairer.

C'est un tout jeune témoin, une petite fille âgée de 10 ans à peine, Mariem, fille de Mardiros, nièce de Baldji Oglou Ohannès, l'une des victimes.

Malgré les efforts faits pour la convaincre de mensonge, il a bien fallu reconnaître qu'elle disait vrai, qu'elle était venue de Mudjuk-Déressi avec les troupes, qu'elle était arrivée à Marache avec le bataillon de Karlek, qu'elle avait d'abord été placée dans une maison Musulmane, qu'elle était passée de là à l'église Catholique, de l'église Catholique chez Sargis, de chez Sargis au couvent de Terre-Sainte. Il suffit pour s'assurer de tout cela de jeter les yeux sur les interrogatoires Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 61, et 62.

Voici d'ailleurs la partie la plus importante de ces interrogatoires :—

D. Qui t'a emmenée à Maraché ?—*R.* Les soldats m'ont emmenée.

D. Les soldats qui t'ont emmenée les connais-tu, et si tous les rencontrais les reconnaîtrais tu ?—*R.* Je ne les connais pas, et je ne pourrais les reconnaître.

D. De quel endroit t'ont-ils emmenée à Maruche ?—*R.* Ils m'ont emmenée de Mudjuk-Déressi.

D. De quelle facon t'ont-ils emmenée ?—*R.* Ils m'ont fait monter sur un mulet et m'emmenèrent.

D. Y avait-il sur le mulet une autre personne que vous ?—*R.* Mois seule j'ai monté.

D. Le mulet était-il chargé ?—*R.* Il y avait deux couvertures de lit.

D. Avant de venir à Maraché où étiez-vous à Mudjuk-Déressi ?—*R.* J'étais au couvent . . . . .

D. Qu'avez-vous vu dans l'église ? (La petite n'a probablement pas compris la question et répond.)—*R.* En venant les soldats tuèrent mon oncle.

D. Qui est votre oncle ?—*R.* Ohannès (Baldji Oglou Ohannès).

D. En venant d'où ?—*R.* Ils l'ont tué à Gheudjek.

D. Y avait-il des maisons ?—*R.* A l'endroit où ils l'ont tué il n'y en a pas ; en face il y avait deux maisons Musulmanes.

(Nous le disons dans notre note explicative No. 4 et le répétons ici : en effet, en face du ravin en forme de cirque où ont été retrouvés les ossements sur une crête qui viennent comme s'enfoncer dans ce cirque sont deux maisons qui frappent extraordinairement la vue.)

D. En quel temps ont-ils tué votre oncle, le jour ou la nuit ?—*R.* Ils l'ont tué le jour, en venant, midi était passé.

(A calculer le temps qu'ont dû mettre les troupes pour venir de Mudjuk-Déressi au Ravin de Gheudjek, c'est bien vers le milieu de la journée que le crime a été commis.)

D. Y avait-il du soleil !—*R.* Il y en avait.

D. Le vent soufflait-il ?—*R.* Le vent soufflait.

D. Est-ce qu'il pleuvait ? (Question insidieuse.)—*R.* Il y avait du soleil, il ne pleuvait pas.

D. Les soldats après avoir tué votre oncle qu'ont-ils fait ?—*R.* Ils l'ont tué à coups de baïonnettes.

D. Je vous demande qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait après l'avoir tué !—*R.* Après l'avoir tué ils l'ont brûlé.

D. D'où ont-ils pu trouver du feu ?—*R.* Il y avait des allumettes avec du broussaille.

D. Ont-ils tué d'autres personnes que votre oncle ?—*R.* Ils en ont tué et il y avait le Père.

D. En outre que le Père qui y avait-il ?—*R.* Il y avait Erémia, domestique du Père.

D. Encore qui ?—Il y avait Ziroun ; ils étaient liés tous ensemble par le bras.

D. Comment avez-vous vu ?—*R.* J'étais à côté d'eux. . . . . .

D. Avez-vous pleuré !—*R.* J'ai pleuré ; il m'ont bouché la bouche.

D. En quel endroit ont-ils piqué les baïonnettes à votre oncle ?—*R.* Ils les lui ont enfoncées dans le dos. . . . . .

D. Connaissez-vous d'autres choses ? dites-les.—*R.* J'ai dit tout ce que je connaissais, c'est tout.

D. Connaissez-vous le nom du Père ?—*R.* Il s'appelle le Père Salvatore.

D. Ce que vous avez dit est bien vrai ? Ou bien sur l'instigation de quelqu'un ?—*R.* C'est vrai, personne ne m'a enseigné rien.

Sur cette dernière partie du drame nous avons d'autres témoignages.

1. Cette déclaration de Lucique No. 3 : "A mon arrivée à Kaichli j'ai appris des Musulmans : Comme le Père était gras ! C'est-à-dire qu'après avoir tué le Père ils ont dit qu'ils l'ont brûlé."

2. Celle du Moucre qui dit au Père Léon (No. 5), en montrant de la main la région de Yénidjé-Kalé : "En venant de ce côté il y avait un beau prêtre qui était mené par les soldats. Sur un signal qui leur fut donné par leur grand chef, des yeux, ils le massacrèrent avec quelques compagnons qui se trouvaient avec lui, ils mirent leurs corps en tas les uns sur les autres et les brûlèrent."

3. Cette déclaration de Testez Oglou Nazareth faite à Zéitoun le 20 Février, 1896, qu'il ne peut tenir que d'un témoin oculaire : "Quelques jours après je traversais le camp, quand le même soldat Topal m'appela et me conduisit à sa tente. Là il y avait aussi le sergent mentionné plus haut. Pendant la conversation, ce même soldat parla de la guerre de Yénidjé-Kalé où nous trouvâmes un joli établissement habité par un moine Kendirli (à corde) et vingt-trois individus Arméniens. Notre officier dit au moine que nous voulions le conduire à Marache. Le moine demanda une monture et l'officier lui répondit : Allons un peu en avant et puis je vous donnerai une monture." Nous fîmes alors sortir du monastère le Père et les Arméniens et quand nous fûmes à une petite distance nous cernâmes, par ordre de l'officier, toute la compagnie que nous perçâmes de nos baïonnettes et que nous brûlâmes après. Pendant que le moine brûlait, il tressaillit en gémissant. Il y

avait au couvent beaucoup de choses et du vin, mais nous brûlâmes tout sans en donner rien à personne. En réponse à cette narration du sergent, je lui demandai comment les soldats avaient osé commettre une semblable action contre ce Père qui n'était pas Ottoman. Il répondit qu'il avait l'ordre du Gouvernement de tuer tous les Chrétiens mais en tout cas l'amnistie était à présent accordée et que nous l'avons échappé belle."

En Février 1896, Testez n'avait pas bougé et n'avait pu bouger de Zéitoun. Il ne peut donc avoir inventé ce récit qui se trouve comme les autres confirmé par les faits. Il ne peut le tenir que d'un témoin oculaire. On ne dira pas qu'il l'a appris des réfugiés Chrétiens de Mudjuk-Déressi. Ceux-ci, trompés par l'aggression dirigée contre le Père Salvatore dans son couvent, n'avaient apporté à Zéitoun qu'une fausse nouvelle, celle de la mort du Père Salvatore à Mudjuk-Déressi même. Nous savons bien que le sergent et les soldats ont nié plus tard cet entretien mais comment, nous le répétons, Testez aurait-il inventé cette histoire confirmée plus tard? Comment aurait-il su également qu'il y avait dans la tente un soldat malade s'il n'y était entré? (Voir dépositions Nos. 12, 58, 59, et 60.)

4. Cette déclaration de Terfende (No. 15).

D. Avez-vous cherché l'endroit où a été tué votre mari?—*R.* Dans notre crainte, je n'ai pu sortir dehors; c'est pour cette raison que je n'ai pas cherchée.

D. Depuis lors n'avez-vous pas cherché à avoir des renseignements?—*R.* Nous avons demandé. On nous a dit qu'ils les ont tués à Gheudjek.

D. Où l'ont-ils enterré?—*R.* Ils ont donné le signal du clairon et les brûlèrent.

5. Celle de Ohan Oglou Manouk (No. 17.)

"J'appris après deux jours que le Père Salvatore a été conduit par les soldats, et qu'ils l'avaient invité à embrasser l'Islamisme, et que celui-ci n'ayant pas accepté, ils l'ont tué à coups de baïonnettes et l'ont brûlé."

D. Dans quel endroit avez-vous entendu dire que Père Salvatore avait été tué?—*R.* D'après ce que j'ai entendu, c'est entre le Kersoulou et le Gheudjek.

6. Celle de la nommée Almas (No. 21).

"Le soir où les soldats ont emmené le Père et divers individus, un villageois de Kaichli est venu à Kaichli, au milieu de nous, dire qu'ils avaient brûlé tous, que le Père était gras, et qu'on a ramassé deux ou trois pièces d'or de sa cendre, que deux parmi eux étaient guillards qui ne sont pas morts vites, et qu'ils les ont enfin tués à moitié et à moitié jetés au feu."

7. Celle de Marguerite (No. 62).

"Je déclare encore qu'un mois et demi après, Kal-Wali, dans la mosquée de Dungalé, où je tissais du coton, il m'a adressé la parole en me demandant: 'Le Père Salvatore avait-il cousu un sac?' Le lui ai répondu que je n'ai pas vu. Sur ce fait, en réponse, il me dit que le Père Salvatore avait attaché un sac d'or sous sa robe, et qu'après l'avoir brûlé il a été retiré 80 livres de la cendre, et qu'on les avait comptées!"

Il est donc maintenant établi, non plus seulement d'après la rumeur publique, mais d'après des témoignages se contrôlant les uns par les autres, et par l'enchaînement logique des faits incontestables:—

1. Que le Colonel Mazhar Bey est parti de Mudjuk-Déressi avec ses deux bataillons le 22 Novembre, qu'il a passé le gué de Kersoulou avec ses troupes, qu'il les a conduites lui-même jusqu'à Nadirli.

2. Que le Père Salvatore et ses compagnons ont été emmenés par Mazhar Bey, qu'ils ont passé le Kersoulou à gué, et n'ont pas atteint Gheudjek.

3. Que le Père Salvatore et ses compagnons ont été mis à mort par les soldats commandés par Mazhar Bey, que les restes des victimes ont été brûlés.

Nous n'ignorions pas que la crémation complète est une opération délicate, difficile, qui nécessite des locaux et des moyens particuliers. Nous étions donc convaincus que les traces palpables du crime n'étaient pas complètement effacées.

Le 8 Mai la Commission d'Enquête se transporta de Marache à Mudjuk-Déressi et Dungalé.

Le lendemain, 9 Mai, à la tombée de la nuit, à notre rentrée à Buyuk-Keuy, que nous étions allés visiter, nous trouvâmes une lettre du Père Marcellino adressée à son confrère le Père Emmanuel. Écrite en Italien elle a été traduite et jointe au dossier; elle est ainsi conçue:—

"*Mudjuk-Déressi, le 9 Mai*, 1896.

"Je suis parti ce matin vers 5 heures pour aller chercher le lieu où le Père Salvatore et ses compagnons ont été tués. Après quatre heures de recherches nous sommes enfin arrivés à découvrir le lieu précis où ils furent brûlés. J'ai même trouvé des os de bras et divers autres os brûlés. . . . ."

"Révérend Père Emmanuel."

Le 10 Mai, à 6 heures et demie du matin, la Commission quittait Dungalé, et revenant sur ses pas, s'arrêtait une heure après à Mudjuk-Déressi.

Le Père Marcellino nous confirmait en particulier la nouvelle de la veille; il avait rapporté quelques ossements, mais il s'empressait d'ajouter que sur place il en restait encore un grand nombre.

Je réunis alors mes collègues Ottomans, les mis au courant de ce qui s'était passé; le Père Marcellino fut appelé à déposer (voir déposition No. 51), et l'on mit sous leurs yeux les ossements apportés.

On remonta à cheval, et l'on se dirigea, le Père Marcellino en tête, sur le lieu qu'il a visité la veille. Il fallut renoncer à prendre la route d'été, le Kersoulou étant à cette époque de l'année grossi par la fonte des neiges, et l'on dut prendre la route d'hiver. Cependant, lorsque les membres de la Commission arrivèrent à hauteur du gué, ils virent de leurs yeux plusieurs voyageurs qui le franchissaient, même à cette époque de l'année. Ils avaient de l'eau jusqu'au ventre. Le pont de Kersoulou fut franchi; on tourna à droite, on descendit la rive gauche de la rivière jusqu'au gué, et tournant alors à gauche, on se trouva sur le chemin d'été, que l'on suivit jusqu'au point où le Père Marcellino invita à descendre de cheval. Nous avions passé sous le moulin Kerlakian, nous étions entre le Kersoulou et Gheudjek, et nous avions devant nous ces deux maisons qui avaient tant frappé la vue de Mariem, et dont l'image était restée gravée dans sa mémoire.

Nous fîmes quelques pas pour descendre dans un ravin; nous étions sur le théâtre du crime: des branches avaient été coupées aux arbustes environnants, quelques-unes inutilisées, gisaient encore sur place, desséchées; l'emplacement du bûcher, de l'unique bûcher, était encore marqué par un sillon de cendres noires qui en traçaient l'ovale; dans la terre grasse du centre, grasse de la graisse des victimes, et plus loin entraînés épandus par les eaux sur une étendue de 30 mètres environ, ou bien çà et là, dispersés et rongés par les fauves, des ossements humains en quantité, tous plus ou moins calcinés. Et, avec les ossements, intimement mélangés à la terre, des matières organiques, des viscères, des caillots de sang conservés par la cuisson; des lambeaux de vêtements incontestablement reconnus pour avoir appartenu à certaines des victimes; après un de ces lambeaux une corde qui le serrait, le pénétrait, une de ces cordes avec lesquelles les prisonniers avaient été solidement garottés; une autre partie de corde calcinée, partie peut-être de la ceinture du Père Franciscain; des restes de toutes sortes enfin, dont la liste est jointe au dossier:—

1. Étoffe moitié brûlée avec une corde graissée.
2. Un morceau de drap.
3. Des morceaux d'aladja (tissus) moitié brûlés.
4. Un morceau de corde de ceinture carbonisée.
5. Un morceau de corde graissée, des boutons, des morceaux de crânes, un os de doigt et divers.
6. Vingt-huit morceaux d'os et une collection de petits morceaux d'os brûlés.
7. Des membres brûlés, des viscères brûlés, foie, sang, &c.
8. Terre contenant des matières organiques.
9. Des morceaux d'habits brûlés.
10. Terre mélangée à des matières organiques.
11. Os divers trouvés par le Père Marcellino.

Pendant une heure on trouva, on trouva toujours et il est incontestable qu'on aurait encore trouvé longtemps si de plus longues recherches n'avaient été jugées inutiles.

Quelques jour après, en présence du Dr. Pathitos Kalispérakis, Médecin Major du 27e Régiment de Cavalarie, détaché à Marache, l'inventaire de ces ossements et de ces restes fut dressé.

Ils furent mis en caisse scellée le 19 Mai dans la matinée et expédiés à Constantinople à l'adresse du Premier Secrétaire de Sa Majesté à Yildiz.

Un Rapport rédigé en secret par les membres Ottomans en dehors du Délégué Français, fut expédié le même jour à la même adresse.

Aucune conclusion ne fut prise, en commun du moins. Je protestai contre cette façon de faire et j'envoyai le jour même à M. l'Ambassadeur un télégramme dont j'extrais le passage ci-après: "Ma conclusion formelle est que devant preuves et témoignages accablants, le Commandant des troupes responsable devrait être arrêté immédiatement pour être mis en jugement."

C'est encore ma conclusion d'aujourd'hui.

(Signé) HENRI DE VIALAR.

Constantinople, Juillet 1896.

No. 105.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 628.) *Constantinople, August 6, 1896.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 550 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir reporting on the state of affairs in that vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Diarbekir, July 21, 1896.*

I REGRET to say that in spite of your representations and those of the French Ambassador, Ennis Pasha still remains here as Vali. These representations have had a good effect in allaying the fears of massacre, and nothing can better show how completely this population, in spite of the apparent anarchy which prevails, is under the control of the Government than that the mere fact of severe orders being sent from Constantinople suffices to hold them in check without any serious measures being taken. In no country in Europe does the population stand in such awe of the Government, and the Kurds, notwithstanding their bad reputation, are one of the most docile of Moslem races, as a Turkish officer of high rank remarked to me in speaking of their military qualities.

Apart from the immediate prospect of massacre having been removed, the situation remains the same, and will remain the same, as long as this Vali is here. There is little security outside the towns, the number of poor seems to increase rather than diminish; the Government does nothing for them, and it will be great good fortune if there is no cholera here this autumn.

Having received a considerable sum (about 2,500*l.*) lately for relief purposes, I am devoting some of it to helping some of the villagers to rebuild their houses, a project which the Government naturally approves; it remains to be seen how far it will succeed, and whether there will be sufficient security for the people to remain in their villages when they are rebuilt.

In the Palou district I still hear great complaints against the Kurdish Beys who are levying all kinds of exactions on the Christians. There appears to be no check whatever on them.

From Mardin, Mr. Andrews, who has been there twenty years, and knows the country very well, writes:—

"So far the prospects for the Christians next autumn and winter do not improve as the summer goes on. . . . . This suspense and uncertainty is wearying, disappointing, and dangerous in the extreme."

A few Christians have been enrolled as gendarmes and police here lately.

Ibrahim Pasha, Chief of the Milli tribe of Kurds, from Veranshehr, on the borders of the Mesopotamian plain between Mardin and Ourfa, left on the 15th instant for Sivas and Constantiple with a detachment of 170 Hamidié troopers.

Many Christians have emigrated from here in the last few months, and many more want to go, but at present the Government are making difficulties about giving passports, and have refused to issue any for the last fortnight. It costs at least 5 medjidiés (16*s.* 8*d.*), and sometimes as much as £ T. 2, to get one, the real price being 9 piastres (1*s.* 6*d.*). It is desirable that those who wish to go should be allowed to go, as there is nothing for them to do here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 106.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 629.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas respecting certain proposals made by Shakir Pasha to the Commission of Control for the execution of the reforms in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Sivas, July 28, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report the following proposals submitted by Shakir Pasha to the Commission of Control at Constantinople with a view to carrying out the reforms.

Shakir Pasha proposed to divide the province into eighty-six nahiés, or cantons, and for the payment of the Mudirs he allotted 720,000 piastres per annum. He informed me that as soon as this scheme was accepted, the elections of the Councils for each canton would be proceeded with.

He also proposed to appoint 320 tahsildars for the collection of the taxes, and for this allotted 490,000 piastres per annum.

He also proposed to appoint 300 additional gendarmes, of these, 210 are to be Christians. For their payment he allotted 407,000 piastres per annum, and arranged in what places of the province they should be posted.

So far, the necessary instructions from Constantinople have not been received, and these proposals remain in abeyance.

He also proposed to appoint an administration of Sub-Governors for the Sandjak of Sivas, and for this allotted 80,000 piastres per annum. Hitherto the administration of the Sandjak has been left to the officials appointed for the whole province.

He also proposed to substitute a land tax in place of the tithes, but he informed me that the Government at Constantinople did not approve of this, and he therefore directed that it should be tried as an experiment in three villages. I mentioned to him the difficulties there would be in assessing the value of the land, but he did not consider these difficulties insuperable, and stated that the land would be divided into three classes, and taxed according to its class. On asking him who would assess the value of each farm separately he said that the villagers themselves would do so, the Government official assessing the value of the whole.

He also told me that Christian Moavins would shortly be appointed, but so far none have been so.

To meet these extra expenses a slight increase in taxation is proposed.

In dealing with local matters, Shakir Pasha suspended the President of the Municipality for errors in his accounts, and recommended the removal of the two Inspectors of Justice to another province. It is also rumoured that he has recommended the dismissal of several among the officers of justice, but on this point he told me nothing definite, although I mentioned several among them as being notorious ruffians.

I also told him that if he wished tranquillity in the province he must hang Mihrali Bey, the Kaimakam of the Hamidieh Cavalry.

He appeared to concur, but said there were difficulties in the way, although something might be done in regard to him.

He also released from prison, to await trial, fifteen prisoners, and ordered the removal of twenty-three others to other prisons, in order, no doubt, to make room for others.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 107.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 631.)
Therapia, August 6, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana asking for authority to proceed to Hadjin and Shahr, either in the course of this month or in September, in view of the deplorable condition of affairs there.

I propose, subject to your Lordship's approval, to authorize Mr. Massy to undertake this journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Vice-Consul Massy to Mr. Herbert.

Adana, July 17, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to the statement made by the Minister of the Interior that I had told the people of Shahr to use armed defence against the inroads of Kurds, I have the honour to state that such is false.

I would wish, however, to draw your attention to the position of the inhabitants of Shahr. They were disarmed last year by the Turkish Government, and left completely defenceless. The Government, however, did not disarm the Kurds and Moslem inhabitants of surrounding villages, who fell on these defenceless people, pillaged their town, and left it in ruins.

Since this occurred in November these people have been homeless and without any means of working to obtain a living, all implements having been taken, as well as furniture, utensils, and all their property.

I am without information since my last visit as to whether anything has been done to enable the inhabitants, who had fled to Hadjin, to return to Shahr, and to provide them with means of livelihood, and I am convinced that it is in order to throw obstacles in the way of Consuls visiting these remote places that the false statements have been made regarding my words.

I would therefore beg you not to be influenced by such statements, but to bring forcibly to the notice of the Government the lamentable state of Shahr, and to use all your endeavours to have its inhabitants reinstated before the approaching winter, proper protection being given to these unarmed people against the possible renewed attacks of Moslems this winter.

I would further ask that you may have the goodness to authorize another visit by me to Hadjin and Shahr in August or September in order to render disturbances this winter less likely, and to prove to the Government officials that false statements on their part do not affect the actions of our Government's officials.

I would beg to say that it will be by this journey alone that any chance of safety for Hadjin and Shahr can be made at all certain during the coming winter, and I will ask for your authority later by cypher.

If the Turkish Government disarm the Christian inhabitants of remote villages, but leave them surrounded by, and at the mercy of, armed Moslems and Kurds without proper protection, a renewal of last winter's crimes is to be feared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 108.

Consul-General Wood to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 24.)
Tabreez, July 23, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 23 of the 16th July, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day

forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, transmitting the latest information which has reached me, giving details confirming and extending my previous reports, on the subject of the massacres on Turco-Persian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 108.

Consul-General Wood to Sir M. Durand.

Tabreez, July 23, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my past despatches on the subject of the massacres which had taken place on Turkish territory and on the Persian border, I have the honour to submit further details received yesterday from Ula, in Salmas, and other sources, confirming and extending my previous reports.

It would seem that the Armenians at Van had taken such precautions for their safety that when attacked, after the departure of the band of 800 Armenians, by the Turkish rifle fire only, they inflicted great loss on the soldiers, although the casualties among their own people were exceedingly small, and that they were only put to the last straits when their quarters were shelled on the second day.

During this anxious time the English Consul was aided in all his efforts in favour of the Christian population of Van by the acting Russian Representative, whose chief had left the town just before the trouble began.

With regard to the band of 800 Armenians who had left Van, and are supposed to have done so under safe conduct to Persian territory, these, as the first news received by me stated, reached Varak, where they lingered two days, as they had no settled plans, but as they were in possession of only two days' further provisions, they found it necessary to make a start, notwithstanding that events had occurred during their stay at Varak which must have made plain to them the difficulties and the fate awaiting them.

Two hundred of them, known as "Huntchakians," were the first to leave Varak, proceeding in a northerly direction, and were soon after face to face with their destiny, but one man escaping by throwing himself headlong into the bulrushes in a marsh, where he remained concealed till all was over with his party.

The remainder belonging to the society of the Armenists started the following day, going in the direction of Salmas, but they were followed by a body of Turkish soldiers, who kept up a running fire upon their rear until they reached the district of Albak, when the Kurds of Bashkala, aided by those of Charik, near Salmas, headed and surrounded them.

It seems that the Armenians made the fatal mistake of leaving the mountains and coming down to the road, and thus became an easy prey to the mountaineers, who fired into them from the hill-tops.

These Armenians are supposed to have had large sums of money and valuables with them, which had been intrusted to their care by their brethren of Van in the hope of their reaching Persia in safety, and this fact would allow it to be understood that they had really been accorded safe conduct by the Turks.

A remnant, composed of some 450 men, managed, however, to reach the Monastery of St. Bartholomew, in Albak (eight days after leaving Van), and there they were slaughtered.

On the Vank, or Monastery, of Varak being evacuated by these refugees, this very ancient place, containing, as it is said, a very valuable library, was set on fire by the Turks and entirely destroyed.

The fifteen refugees or so at present at the Imam Zadé shrine at Kohine Shar represent the survivors of the 800, for three of them, who had diverged from the main body, were slain by the Kurds on a rock overlooking the Persian village of Ula.

Four of the former had been captured and imprisoned at Charik, the stronghold of the Persian Kurd, Mehemet Aga Shakkak, an old and turbulent Kurd, who was at the time with the Shah on his journey to the capital, but they were set at liberty and sent safely to Haftevan by his wife, who feared reprisals might put in play against her husband at Tehran.*

* This old gentleman has just passed through Tabreez on his way to his quarters.—C. G. W.

The refugees at the Shrine of the Imam Zadé were saved from the pursuing Kurds by the energetic and determined action of the Seyyids in charge of the sanctuary.

Many women and children of Albak were massacred there, and the place looted, but the survivors fled to Haftevan, in Salmas, where they are being cared for by their co-religionists.

As far as I can ascertain, there seem to be no Nestorian refugees, but this may be accounted for by the supposition that they fled to Kochanes.

A report states that Kochanes is still being threatened, but that the Nestorian Metropolitan, Mar Shimoon, has already taken refuge among the Ashirets or Kurds in Sinsi (?)* whose Chief, Mousa Bey, afforded him a welcome, as well as shelter to the Christians inhabiting the village of Tis, Bethdevi (?), Batima, Bethkari, and Hateur, which are all in the neighbourhood of the notorious Sheikh Sadik.

It turns out unfortunately that Mousa Bey is not as powerful a Chief as Sheikh Sadik, with whom he has a long-standing feud, and there is reason to believe that Sheikh Sadik is already attacking him by intrigue and false reports sent to the Turkish authorities by telegram.

The Metropolitan is also being bullied by the Turkish authorities, and is prevented sending telegrams to Van or Constantinople, but he has managed to let it be known that he is anxious to be conveyed to Persian territory, as he feels that Mousa Bey could not hold out in his favour on the face of his enemies or of Turkish pressure.

The villages of Iyal and Bhishu (?) have been looted of some 5,400 sheep, and have been abandoned, although 40 men have remained in Iyal and 100 in Bhishu in order to endeavour to save the churches of those places from outrage and desecration. I append a list of the villages destroyed in the Albak region, in Turkish territory.

In conclusion, I am glad to be able to think that Mr. Browne is with Mar Shimoon and Mousa Bey, and therefore safe for the time being.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 108.

LIST of Villages destroyed in the Albak Region in Turkey.

Armenian Villages.	Nestorian Villages.
Chak.	Arji.
Elesan.	Aades.
Arak	Huzin.
Ez	Bavez.
Khandabo	Mangbvan.
Verebol mew.	
Pughitsat.	
Perpetaan.	
Frangatz.	
Rambolo. (M.)	
Albanian.	
Makdeah.	
Pe	
Lasket (M.)	
Seran	
Sourbkleach. (M.)	
Seadet. (Part M.)	
Bahalasan.	
Zargash. (Forty persons M.)	
Ashgerd. (M.)	

(M.) Indicates that the inhabitants have become Mahommedans. The villages have been looted and the inhabitants dispersed. About 100 men were killed. Many escaped to Bashkala and the Monastery of St. Bartholomew, which has been for some time in the hands of the Turks. 300 families from Albak have already reached Salmas.

N.B.—Albak is but one of many districts plundered.

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* I regret to say that I have no map of Turkish Armenia to enable me to correct names of towns or villages of which I have not before heard.—C. G. W.

No. 109.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 14.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August* 13, 1896.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State, extracts from a letter, dated the 20th July, from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Collingwood," respecting the state of affairs at and in the neighbourhood of Alexandretta and Beyrout.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. D. AWDRY.

Inclosure in No. 109.

Captain Marrack to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

(Extract.) *"Collingwood," at Beyrout, July* 20, 1896.

THERE is no political news to report on which reliance can be placed, the rumours of to-day being contradicted to-morrow.

Alexandretta itself is quiet, but some discharged soldiers have taken to highway robbery in the neighbourhood as their means of livelihood, so I have limited the officers' leave to a mile from the town.

The Turkish troops, encamped on a hill at the back of the town, come into the market, and take whatever eatables they require from the stalls, without payment, beating the stall-keepers if they make any objection.

To avoid any possible collision between liberty men and these soldiery, I have given no leave at Alexandretta.

Things are quiet at Beyrout, but the Consul-General tells me that recruiting is being pushed forward very rapidly in the district, possibly for an expedition against the revolted Druses. The Vali of Damascus has been recalled to Constantinople for the share he is supposed to have had in the matter of that revolt by excessive taxation and bribery.

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No. 110.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 330.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 15, 1896, 4·30 P.M.

COLONEL MOCKLER forwarded on the 11th August, from Bagdad, a telegraphic report from the Consular Agent at Mossul, to the effect that 2,000 Armenians from Van and the Van districts, have taken refuge in the mountains of Tiyari.

The Kurds of Amadia are preparing to attack the people of Tiyari, who are being treated as rebels and summoned to give up their arms for giving refuge to these fugitives.

Troops are being sent to Amadia from Mossul and Arbill, and a battalion has arrived at Julamerk from Van. I have had these facts brought to the notice of the Porte, who deny all knowledge of them, but state they are making inquiries.

No. 111.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 635.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies, communicated by the United States' Minister, of correspondence which has passed between his Legation at Constantinople and the Sublime Porte on the subject of the massacres in Asia Minor last winter.

At Mr. Terrell's request, I have instructed Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput to endeavour to ascertain whether there are any traces of the employment of artillery by the Turkish soldiers against houses of American citizens residing there, and what part the troops took in the burning and pillaging of these houses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Mr. Terrell to Tewfik Pasha.

United States' Legation, Constantinople,
November 18, 1895.

Sir,

THE recent burning of eight houses belonging to Americans during the civil strife at Kharput has caused me to renew my demands for more efficient protection to Americans now in Turkey and their interests.

Similar demands were made at the Porte on the 12th March last, on the 3rd October and 21st October, on the 14th November, 15th November, and 17th November, and in each instance I either demanded from your predecessors or the predecessor of his Highness the present Grand Vizier that orders for protection issue to every province of the Empire.

While my Government has carefully avoided all interference with the administration of public affairs in Turkey, it has watched with sollicitude the tendency of recent events.

On the very day when certain reforms desired by other nations were announced, I demanded at the Porte immediate orders for the protection of all Americans throughout the Empire. The causes which have excited multitudes of different races have not ceased, but the army of His Majesty is still (it must be hoped) under control, and I now formally demand that a guard of Turkish soldiers be placed to protect the person and property of every American missionary in the Ottoman Empire.

I am instructed by my Government to demand prompt payment for the burning of American property at Kharput, which will be made the subject of an early note.

Receive, Excellency, &c.
(Signed) TERRELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

Mr. Terrell to Tewfik Pasha.

United States' Legation, Constantinople,
December 4, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE positive information from a truthful source that the American Seminary and Boarding-house at Marash were recently pillaged by soldiers, and the seminary burned by Moslem rioters, after I had repeatedly demanded at the Porte protection for Americans in the Ottoman Empire. I have also certain knowledge that the American missionary in charge of those buildings applied for a special guard two weeks before the burning, and that no guard was furnished until after killing by the rioters in Marash had continued for several hours. I am glad to know that a guard was protecting the lives of American citizens at the date of my last information.

It is impossible to believe that His Imperial Majesty can approve such neglect to protect Americans and their property after my repeated demands before and since the recent disturbances in Asiastic Turkey, or that he will retain in his army or fail to punish the officers who neglected their duty to protect.

I now formally demand in the name of the United States of America the immediate arrest of the officer who commanded the Imperial troops at Marash, and that he be not only degraded from his rank but punished as the enormity of his offence deserves. I also demand that severe punishment be inflicted on those soldiers who engaged in pillaging American houses at Marash.

I beg to remind your Excellency that I ask no investigation to establish the wilful misconduct of the officer in charge at Marash and that of soldiers under his command, but demand their punishment. Their guilt is well known, and if not known by your Excellency can be quickly ascertained.

I would be pleased to communicate to my Government at an early day the action of the Ottoman Government with regard to the demand herein made.

Receive, Excellency, &c.
(Signed) TERRELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 111.

Tewfik Pasha to Mr. Terrell.

Sublime Porte, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Mr. Envoy, *December* 30, 1895.

I HAVE received the note which your Excellency was pleased to address to me on the 4th December, relating to the pillage of the American Seminary and Boarding-school at Marash, and the fire in the seminary.

The Governor-General of the Vilayet of Aleppo, being questioned on this subject, answers by telegraph that the above-mentioned seminary and boarding-school, which were already guarded by the mounted gendarmerie, were, on the day of the disturbance, also protected by troops in sufficient number.

As for the fire started in the interior of the school itself, it was, thanks to the immediate measures adopted by the local authorities, put out, after having destroyed only one wing of the building, and occasioned a loss which may be estimated at the very most at £T. 150.

On the 20th November (old style) Captain Abdul-Kadir Effendi, who was charged with the protection of the missionaries, being notified by them that a fire had just broken out in the seminary, established the fact that ("a constaté que") a certain quantity of charcoal and hay piled up in the stable had been set on fire. Happily this attempt in like manner failed and caused no damage.

As for the alleged pillage of the seminary and boarding-school by soldiers of the Imperial army, that is an entirely uncalled-for calumny, and your Excellency will be the first to acknowledge the groundlessness of this allegation when you learn that the missionaries themselves sent an address of thanks to the military authorities for the aid and protection which had been afforded them on the day of the fire by the Imperial troops. The seminary and school are still looked after by the gendarmerie.

An answer in the same sense as the preceding has been given by the Imperial authorities of the vilayet to the United States' Consul in the capital of the province who had sent a statement to them, together with a letter on the subject, from the Commander of the American war-vessel which was then at Alexandretta.

Such being the facts in their true light, I feel sure that your Excellency, with your sentiments of equity and enlightened appreciation, will bring them to the knowledge of your Government for its full edification.

Receive, Mr. Envoy, &c.
(Signed) TEWFIK.

Inclosure 4 in No. 111.

Mr. Terrell to Tewfik Pasha.

United States' Legation, Constantinople,
Sir, *January* 29, 1896.

IN compliance with notice contained in my note of the 27th November that I would demand the payment of indemnity by the Turkish Government for losses caused by the wilful destruction of American property at Kharput on the 11th November, and at Marash on the 18th November, by subjects of His Imperial Majesty, as soon as reliable information of the extent of such loss could be known by me, I now, in obedience to instructions from my Government, make that demand.

The successful efforts made by the Turkish Government to protect the lives of American citizens during the recent disturbances have induced me to confine my demands to the actual value of property destroyed; the prompt payment of which is expected. This destruction of American property in Turkey occurred after repeated demands made verbally and by written notes for protection. It is quite immaterial to the Government of the United States whether the burning at Kharput was done by Kurds, Armenians, or

Turks, for all are subjects of His Imperial Majesty, and each could have been restrained by the Turkish soldiers if my reasonable request for protection had been granted.

In my note to your Excellency of the 27th November you were informed that if the Ottoman Government disapproved of this destruction of American property that fact could be best known by the prompt issuance of Firmans to rebuild the burned houses before instructions from Washington should require me to demand them. No response to that suggestion has been received, and I now demand through your Excellency of the Ottoman Government Firmans for the rebuilding of the burned houses.

The amount demanded for the buildings and other property at Kharput is £ T. 19,996½, and for destruction by fire at Marash, £ T. 1,873½, making in all £ T. 21,870.

I am directed by my Government to request from your Excellency an early answer to the above demand.

Receive, Excellency, &c.
(Signed) TERRELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 111.

Tewfik Pasha to Mr. Terrell.

Sublime Porte, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
February 24, 1896.

Mr. Envoy,

I HAVE received the note you kindly addressed me on the 20th January last with regard to the wastes occasioned to the property belonging to American citizens at Kharput and Marash during the last disturbances.

I have already informed your Excellency, by my notes of the 3rd and 30th December last, that in the perturbations which took place in the above-mentioned cities, the local authorities and the Imperial troops have displayed all their efforts for the protection of the property and the lives of the Americans, and that these had expressed to the authorities their acknowledgment for the measures adopted in order to insure their safety. The Imperial Government not being in any way bound to make good the loss suffered during the aforementioned disturbances, there cannot be any question of the payment of an indemnity for the wastings at stake.

As to the authorization for the rebuilding of the destroyed property, the competent Department will not fail to do what is right as soon as it is requested in the usual form.

In having the honour to bring what proceeds to your Excellency's knowledge, I avail, &c.

(Signed) TEWFIK.

Inclosure 6 in No. 111.

Mr. Terrell to Tewfik Pasha.

United States' Legation, Constantinople,
February 26, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE received the answer sent by your Excellency on the 24th February to my demand for the payment of indemnity for losses caused by burning and spoliation of the property of American citizens by Ottoman subjects at Kharput and Marash during recent disturbances.

If Americans expressed approval of the conduct of Turkish troops at Kharput or Marash, it was no doubt for the protection of their lives and of property which was not burned.

Your Excellency will observe, by reference to my former note, that the Government of the United States demands indemnity not for life or property, protected or preserved, but for the property of peaceful American citizens which has been destroyed by Turkish subjects, and it is entirely immaterial whether the burning was done by Turks, Kurds, Armenians, or Imperial troops, for all are subjects of His Imperial Majesty.

Before the spolintion occurred this Legation repeatedly demanded of your predecessors general and ample protection for all Americans and their property throughout the Ottoman Empire. Adequate protection was promised. Be plensed to observe, Excellency, that protection adequate to the danger was not afforded. Justice now requires that

indemnity for the loss should be promptly paid by the Ottoman Government. Under any other rule no peaceful remedy would exist for such flagrant wrongs, and commerce, being unprotected, would be impossible.

Your Excellency is therefore reminded that an interchange of views regarding the conduct of the Imperial troops at Kharput and Marash would neither be pertinent to the claim of the United States nor instructive.

Your Excellency is now informed that the claim of the United States for £ T. 21,870½ indemnity, which I had the honour to present in my note of the 29th January, is again insisted upon, and also the further sum of £ T. 2,730, it being the value of goods plundered at Kharput and Marash during the burnings, which was not estimated in my former note.

In presenting this claim, the United States does not waive its right to insert hereafter on the payment of any other just claim against the Turkish Government, and especially for the value of books and Bibles plundered and destroyed by Turkish subjects, the amount and value thereof not being yet known.

I beg also to inform your Excellency that the amount now demanded by the United States as indemnity is for actual values destroyed or plundered, and that proper interest will be expected to be computed from the dates of the losses until paid.

Receive, Excellency, &c.
(Signed) TERRELL.

No. 112.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 637.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 11, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Moush concerning the increase of the military force in that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Moush, July 29, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that the military force in Moush is being considerably augmented, infantry, cavalry, and artillery arriving here from all sides. The reserves have also been called out. No one here seems to be able to account for this movement, which is causing much speculation.

If it were not for the calling out of the reserves, I should be disposed to accept the explanation that, Moush having escaped disorders and the harvest here promising to be plentiful, extra troops are being quartered here in order to relieve less fortunate districts of the burden of providing rations.

A story current among the Mussulmans is that, as they did not obey orders and massacre the Christians here, troops are being sent to exterminate all the inhabitants of Moush without distinction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 113.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 639.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 11, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting the relief of Suedah by the Imperial troops and further fighting in the neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 113.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Damascus, July 20, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 11th instant the Turkish troops advanced from Sheikh Meskin on Suedah. The resistance offered by the Druses was comparatively feeble, but the Turkish artillery continued firing for about six hours, and was replied to by rifle fire on the part of the Druses, who kept behind their rocky defences. The column succeeded in entering Suedah and relieving the blockade.

The Douma battalion, which acted as rear-guard, fell too far behind, and the Druses seizing their opportunity fell on the isolated troops and inflicted a loss of some 300 killed and wounded.

Two battalions sallied out of Suedah to aid the retirement of the rear-guard, and succeeded in effecting their object. The Druse loss is not known, but is estimated by Turkish officials at 1,500 men, an evident exaggeration.

Since then there has been no movement of importance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 113.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Damascus, July 28, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that I have not been able to obtain any further details concerning the number of killed and wounded in the fighting which took place round Suedah. The Turkish troops certainly lost 300 men, and very probably even more, but the Druse loss it is impossible to ascertain.

On the 18th instant nine battalions left Suedah to proceed to Kanawat, which is three hours distant from Suedah. As the troops attempted to pass through a wooded defile they were attacked by the Druses, who held a strongly entrenched position, and a long and fierce battle ensued. According to the official Report, which is very meagre, the troops succeeded in forcing their way through to Kanawat after nine hours fighting. Again, the losses on either side are not stated, but up to this date 180 wounded have reached Damascus. The Druses are described as fighting desperately and as having sustained heavy losses. The official Report seemed to me so suspicious from its omissions that I thought it highly probable that the troops had met with a defeat and was unwilling to accept the official account, but no further details have been forthcoming.

Another suspicious circumstance is that reinforcements have been sent for, and the battalion stationed at Kuneitra has been ordered to Suedah and another battalion of the IIIrd Army Corps, which reached Damascus a week ago, has also been dispatched to Sheikh Meskin.

To-day I received private information from a Government official to the effect that a body of troops proceeding to Ahiry in the Ledja had met with a severe repulse, and had sustained a loss of 1,500 men on the 24th instant. The troops retreated on Suedah. My informant stated that he had seen the despatch reporting this defeat, but it will certainly not be publicly acknowledged.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 114.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 640.)

Constantinople, August 11, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving further details on the outbreak in the Hauran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Damascus, July 29, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that, according to an official despatch transmitted to me by the Governor-General, the Turkish troops left Kanawat on the 23rd instant for Shahba, a village near by, and after a skirmish, which resulted in the flight of the Druses, they proceeded to Em Zeitoun, and thence to Ahiry, in the Ledja, Nejran, and Kourassa, returning eventually to Bosrah-el-Harir. All these places they found evacuated, and they encountered no opposition, except at Shahba, but experienced great difficulty from the nature of the country.

Private advices state that the troops were badly defeated, and hence their return to Bosrah. But I have reason to believe that this report, which is an amplification of the statement that the troops had lost 1,500 men, as mentioned in my despatch No. 27, is not true, and is due to the fact that on various occasions the Druses inflicted serious losses on the troops, though in every case they were eventually defeated and driven off.

An officer, who was formerly in the Russian army, and on whose word I can rely, informed me yesterday that the Turkish force met with determined resistance on three occasions, on their entry in Suedah, on the road to Kanawat and during the night that followed their entry into the latter village. He states that the Redifs of Syria proved absolutely worthless, and nothing but the steadiness of the Denizli battalions saved the division from wholesale disaster both at Suedah and at Kanawat.

After reaching Kanawat three Redif battalions built high stone fortifications to protect themselves during the night. Some Druses commenced taunting them from a neighbouring hill, and the three battalions began a heavy fusillade, which, owing to the height of the ramparts, was principally directed at the sky. The Druses soon perceived what was happening, and creeping up to the ramparts they managed to loosen the lower stones, upset the defences inwards, and fell on the soldiers with swords and axes. So panic-stricken were the Turks that they sustained a loss of 300, killed and wounded, before one of the Denizli battalions could come to their aid. The Druses were then repulsed.

The total result of the fighting hitherto appears to be that the Druses have been driven from the Jebel Druse, and have taken refuge in the Ledja. They have inflicted heavy loss on the troops, and have themselves lost heavily also. The Turks acknowledge that the Druses have fought with the most desperate courage, both men and women (thirty of the latter being among the killed in the battle near Kanawat), while, with a few honourable exceptions, the Turkish officers, especially those of higher rank, have displayed lamentable cowardice. Nine majors have been killed, but no officer above that rank has been touched.

The Mushir, Tahir Pasha, has conducted the campaign fairly ably, while of his two subordinates in command, Momdouh Pasha and Agia Pasha, the former has proved himself a capable coadjutor. Bedri Bey also, the Chief of Staff, is an able man.

The auxiliaries of the Turks, Settham Pasha Sheikh, of the Rowala Arabs, the Circassians, and the Kurds are, after their fashion, principally engaged in looting peaceable villages, and the Vali has remonstrated with the Mushir for permitting those outrages.

The day before yesterday thirty-eight wounded reached Damascus, making a total of about 300 wounded brought in up to date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 115.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 641.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul in Damascus reporting insubordination among the Turkish troops sent to suppress the rising in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Damascus, August 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I have heard from a deserter that the sudden retreat of the Turkish force from the borders of the Ledja to Bosrah-el-Hsrir was due to the insubordination of the troops. The soldiers had suffered great hardships from want of water and scarcity of provisions, and a mutiny broke out, which determined the Commandant to beat an immediate retreat. My informant also stated that the total Druse loss was small compared to that sustained by the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 116.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 642.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jerusalem, reporting the embarkation of troops at Jaffa for Beyrout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Acting Consul Jones to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Jerusalem, July 31, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to information received from Jaffa, a small body of troops, numbering about 100, were embarked on the 29th instant at that port on board the Ottoman vessel "Crete," of the Mahsousse Company, bound for Beyrout.

It was added that the troops on leaving the port gave vent to their feelings by calling out, "Death to the Christians."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 117.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 643.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 11, 1896.*

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 287 of the 2nd May, 1895, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Angora, reporting the case of three Armenians hanged at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Acting Consul Richards to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Angora, August 3, 1896.*

WITH reference to, and in confirmation of, my telegram of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report that three Armenians, viz., Ohannes Lordoghlou or Lordian, his son Caspar, and a certain Seropé Teïnoghlou (probably more correctly written Dainoghlou or Daïnian) were hanged at Yuzgat early in the morning of the 27th ultimo. These three men, together with two others, named Garabed Agob Lordian, brother of the Ohannes above mentioned, and Avedis Akashian, were charged with having waylaid and robbed the Osmanjik mail in the Djedj Pass, and killed one of the escort, a zaptieh of the name of Ibrahim. This took place, I believe, in the late summer of 1892. The Lordians, father and son, and Seropé Daïnian, were condemned to death by the Yuzgat Criminal Tribunal early in 1893, a sentence of three years' imprisonment being passed on Garabed Lordian and Avedis Akashian. In February 1895 the same Tribunal reduced the death penalty to which the Lordians, father and son, had been condemned, to penal servitude for life, while the original sentence passed on Garabed Lordian and Akashian was confirmed. According to a statement contained in the "observation" column of a tabular statement drawn up by Mr. Acting Consul Fontana, and forwarded to Her Majesty's Embassy as an inclosure in his despatch of the 7th October last, it would appear that the sentence of death originally passed on Caspar Lordian, and, I imagine, though not so expressly stated, on his father Ohannes and Daïnian, was quashed by the Court of Cassation at Constantinople. Mr. Fontana goes on to state that Caspar (and his two comrades?) underwent a fresh trial, was again condemned to death, and again, according to general belief, the sentence was quashed by the Court of Cassation. He says, moreover, that while numerous witnesses gave evidence in Caspar's favour, two men, viz., Toros Taroukian and Gyulbenk Parseghian, who were charged with, and found guilty of, complicity in the murder of the zaptieh, confessed their guilt before their execution, and so exonerated the Lordians and Daïnian. If this be so, and the fact of the Yuzgat sentence being quashed once, if not twice, at Constantinople, would seem to corroborate Mr. Fontana's statement, it is a most extraordinary thing that the original sentence should be carried out now, four years after the alleged commission of the offence, and eighteen months after the commutation of the death penalty to one of penal servitude for life.

As regards Garabed Lordian and Akashian, they have, I am informed on good authority, been exiled to Rhodes.

To resume, it would appear that the persons accused of attacking the Osmanjik mail and killing the zaptieh Ibrahim in 1892 were seven in number, viz., the three Lordians, Daïnian, Akashian, Taroukian, and Parseghian. Of these, the two latter were, according to Mr. Fontana, found guilty and executed in 1895; three more, the Lordians (father and son) and Daïnian, were executed on Monday last, while the remaining two, Akashian and Garabed Lordian, have been exiled to Rhodes.

I have only to add that the recent death sentence would appear to have been carried out in pursuance of a special order from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 118.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 644.)

Constantinople, August 11, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 287 of the 2nd May, 1895, and my despatch No. 643 of to-day's date, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Angora, concerning the Armenian prisoners at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Acting Consul Richards to Mr. Herbert.

Angora, August 6, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant, I regret to say that I was misinformed as to the alleged sentence of three years' imprisonment passed on the men Garabed Lordian and Avedis Akashian. I have since been assured by an Armenian who was actually a prisoner in Yuzgat with the Lordians and others, that the two men above mentioned have been set at liberty. He appears to be positive of this fact. The same informant reports that the five men, viz., Manik Oghlou Artin, Sari Choban Oghlou Derbab, Kishish Oghlou Mugherditch, Yemjem Oghlou Agob, and Simon Oghlou Artin Kehaya, who, according to the list forwarded to me as an inclosure in your despatch of the 15th June, have been condemned to fifteen years' hard labour, have, as a matter of fact, been sent to Adana, whether to be interned in the fortress of Payas, or to be forwarded to Mersina for shipment to Rhodes, he does not know.

My informant also declares that there are none of the old Armenian political prisoners remaining in the Yuzgat prison, the last twelve having been recently set free. He adds that there were, it is true, two Armenians in prison at the time he left it, but they had both entered it quite recently on a charge of raising funds for illicit purposes.

Since obtaining this information, I have heard that shortly after the recent executions some seven or eight Armenians were arrested, but the news has not, so far, been confirmed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—With reference to the last two paragraphs of this despatch, I have just heard that five Armenians named Cazaros Ma'Akiyan, Artin Jivelekiyan, Ohannes Devletian, Ariss Terzi Mugher Oghlou, and Semerjibashi Oghlou Toross have quite recently been arrested and imprisoned in Yuzgat on a charge of trying to collect money for revolutionary purposes. They appear to have been denounced to the authorities by an Armenian who has recently embraced Islam, and who is said to have killed his wife and child because they refused to follow his example.

As regards the twelve men of whose liberation I made mention above, my last informant, who was himself a prisoner in Yuzgat during eight months (not to be confounded with the man mentioned in the second paragraph of this despatch), asserts that he is *not quite* sure that two of them, viz., Manuel (? Manouk) Ginghozian (see list in Embassy despatch of the 15th June) and Ghooush Meydanian, have been set free, though he *is* sure that this is the case as regards the remaining ten.

W. S. R.

No. 118*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 645.)

Constantinople, August 11, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 529 of the 6th July, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah, reporting on the mutiny of the Turkish troops in that town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 118*.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

Jeddah, July 10, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 25th ultimo and the 2nd instant, I have the honour to state that on the 24th ultimo a number of Turkish soldiers belonging to the Reserve ("Ikhtyat") left their quarters and proceeded with their arms to the Akkash Mosque, which is situated in the centre of the bazaar. They placed sentries at the doors of the mosque, who allowed no one but their comrades to enter.

During that day, and subsequently, they were joined by many other deserters from the garrison, and from the outposts on the Mecca road, until their number exceeded 500, or about half the total garrison. The cause of this mutinous conduct was that the men had been joined to serve longer than the term for which they had been called out; that they had been brought here under the false pretence that they were to take part in military operations against the Bedouins; and that they had been badly fed and exposed in tents unsuited to the burning sun of Arabia, as a result of which nearly half their original number had died from disease. They demanded their arrears of pay, and their discharge and repatriation.

The Kaimakam, after fruitless negotiations, placed patrols of police and soldiers in the neighbourhood of the mosque, and was indefatigable in his efforts to prevent any disturbance.

On the 26th instant the Vali arrived, but was unable to make any compromise with the revolted troops, and frequent communications passed between him and Constantinople on the subject. On two occasions I spoke to the Vali on the matter, and on each occasion he assured me that the difficulty was on the point of being settled, and that the men would be dispatched to Constantinople.

On the 2nd instant the mutineers, who until then, although ready to resist with arms any attempt at arrest, had on the whole behaved extremely well, became irritated at the long delay, and threatened to issue from the mosque with their arms and make a demonstration. During part of that day and the next many of the shops in the bazaar were closed, and there was some panic in the town.

On the evening of the 2nd instant a meeting of the Consular Corps was held, at which it was decided that we should make collective representations to the Vali as to the necessity of taking measures to put a stop to this situation, which was causing much apprehension to foreign subjects (the majority of whom were of French or British Indian nationality) whose shops are in the neighbourhood of the mosque. The French Consul, as doyen, requested the Vali to receive us the following morning, the 3rd instant, at 9·30, for this purpose, but the latter declined to receive us, alleging as a pretext that the following day was Friday, and that he was somewhat fatigued, neither of which excuses were valid.

I accordingly telegraphed to you that evening, pointing out the necessity for an immediate decision.

On the following day the general uneasiness increased, but in the evening the question was settled, the troops receiving a portion of their pay, and on the 4th instant they left the mosque, and were given their discharges.

On the 6th instant they, with other time-expired troops, numbering in all 804, embarked on board the Makhsoussé Administration's steamer the "Saadet," and sailed the following morning for Constantinople.

On the 4th instant, or two days after declining to see the Consular Corps, the Vali sent a message to the French Consul to the effect that he had been much occupied the previous day, but would receive us that evening.

We replied, through the French Consul, that on the 2nd instant such an interview was necessary, but that his Excellency had not thought fit to accede to our request, and that at the present moment we saw no necessity for a collective visit. To this, I understand, the Vali made no reply, nor has he given any explanation to us individually.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 119.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 652.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 12, 1896.*

AS I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 602 of the 30th July, I made representations to the Sublime Porte on the failure of the authorities to bring the authors of the recent massacres at Niksar to justice.

Mr. Marinitch has since spoken repeatedly to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject without being able to extract any definite reply from his Excellency. I accordingly myself mentioned the matter to Tewfik Pasha at an interview which I had with his Excellency the day before yesterday.

My representations have had a prompt, if not very satisfactory, result, his Excellency having yesterday communicated to me a Memorandum, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, setting forth the Turkish version of the affair.

As usual, the allegations of Her Majesty's Consuls are flatly denied, and the whole blame for the disturbances is thrown on the Armenians. It is worthy of mention, however, that this document admits that disorders did take place at Niksar, and this avowal is scarcely consistent with the point-blank denial contained in the official communiqué of the Porte given in a Reuter's telegram published in the "Times" of the 24th July, which ran as follows:—

"The Porte, after a most careful investigation, declares that there is no truth in the assertion that 340 Armenians have been killed at Niksar, where there has been no massacre and no fighting.

"The Imperial Government regrets that sensational stories without the slightest foundation continue to be published in the newspapers just at the time when it is doing its utmost to restore order and tranquillity in all parts of the Ottoman Empire."

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Memorandum.

LES désordres survenus à Niksar avaient été provoqués par les Arméniens eux-mêmes. En effet, le Samedi, 8 Juin dernier, lorsque tout le monde vaquait paisiblement à ses affaires, des coups de feu ont été inopinément tirés sur les Musulmans, tant par les nombreux Arméniens qui s'étaient barricadés dans l'église que par les gens des magasins de Gudikian, Topalian, et Tchaouchian. Ces coups de feu, joints au meurtre de Tchakir Mustapha, préposé de la Régie par Gudekian Khougas dans son "han," et du charretier Daoud Mehemmed par Esmourdjian Avédis dans la maison même de ce dernier, ont jeté l'émoi parmi la population, et dans les rixes qui s'en sont suivies il y a eu de part et d'autre des morts et des blessés.

Les Arméniens, au nombre de 200 environ, qui n'avaient pas pris part au mouvement séditieux de leurs coreligionnaires, ont été protégés par les autorités Impériales, et des provisions de bouche leur ont été accordées.

Grâce aux mesures adoptées par les autorités Impériales, l'ordre et le calme avaient été immédiatement rétablis, et les fauteurs arrêtés et livrés à la justice, pour être punis conformément à la loi.

No. 118†.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 649.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 12, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 552 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting the return of the Governor-General from Damascus and the arrival of a Turkish Commission of Inquiry into the causes of the rising in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118†.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 53.)
Sir, *Beyrout, July 29, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47 of the 29th June, I have the honour to inform you that Messouhi Bey returned from Damascus on the 26th instant, and resumed his duties as Governor-General of this vilayet. His Excellency communicated to me the day after his arrival a telegram from the Commander-in-chief at Basr-el-Harir, a village situated on the confines of the Ledja, of which I inclose a translation.

Further news was received yesterday that the troops had reached Em Zeitun and Nejran on the eastern side of the Ledja, and that these villages were found deserted by the Druses. It is therefore probable that the latter have retreated with their families and possessions to the heart of the Ledja.

A Commission of Inquiry into the causes of the rising has been appointed, composed of three Turkish officials, who disembarked here yesterday from Constantinople and proceeded immediately to Damascus.

The name of the Chief Commissioner is Showki Bey, President of the Cour de Cassation at Constantinople.

With the exception of the Hauran, the tranquillity of Syria remains undisturbed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118†.

Telegram from Commander-in-chief at Basr-el-Harir.

(Translation.)

A TELEGRAM received from the Commander-in-chief of the 5th Corps d'Armée at Basr-el-Harir states that the rebels who were at Shahba endeavoured by night to stop the advanced guard of the Imperial troops who left Canawat on Thursday last for Shahba, and, owing to the vigilance of the troops, the rebels were disappointed and completely defeated. The next day, after the troops were in order, the artillery opened fire, the infantry began their advance, two battalions of the 2nd Regiment of the 1st Brigade attacked the hills with great courage and defeated the rebels, who, finding themselves surrounded by the troops, left their defences and retreated. The cavalry pursued them and captured the Shahba, killing about 500 rebels. The losses of the troops in killed and wounded were very small.

Le Vice-Président et les membres de l'Éphorie de l'Église Arménienne de Niksar ont envoyé à la Sublime Porte un télégramme pour déclarer que les troubles avaient été provoqués par leurs coreligionnaires mêmes, et exprimer leur reconnaissance des dispositions prises par les autorités Impériales pour le rétablissement de l'ordre.

No. 120.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 655. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August 13, 1896.*

AS I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 307 of the 4th instant, the Armenian Patriarch, Mgr. Ismirlian, resigned on that day.

As your Lordship is aware, this resignation had long been talked of, and long desired by the Turkish authorities. Though Mgr. Ismirlian was always careful to express his disapproval of the Hintchagist or revolutionary movement, he made no secret of his devotion to the cause of Armenian nationality. His first sermon made it plain that he regarded his office as not merely ecclesiastical but also political, and won for him the implacable enmity of the Sultan. After the massacres of last winter, the wealthy and influential classes of Armenians became convinced that their only policy was to submit absolutely to the Turks, and remove as far as possible all causes of friction. As one of the principal of these was the Patriarch, they did not hesitate to advise him to resign, but for some time he was unwilling to do so, fearing that his action might be interpreted as desertion of his post in time of danger. His ultimate decision was the result of long negotiations with the Palace. The Sultan wished him to retire without offering any explanation, but this he declined to do, and insisted on being allowed to say that his resignation was due to the fact that he believed his future continuance in office was injurious to the Armenian people. A formula which satisfied both himself and the Sultan was at last invented, and the resignation tendered and accepted.

According to the privileges granted to the Armenian community, whenever a Patriarch resigns, the Lay and Ecclesiastical Councils meet to elect a *locum tenens*. In the present instance this rule was disregarded. The Director of Public Worship proceeded to Koum Kapou, and read an Iradé, announcing not only that Mgr. Ismirlian had resigned, but that the two Councils had done so likewise. The Iradé proceeded to name a new Mixed Council of Laymen and of Ecclesiastics, who were ordered to proceed to the election of a *locum tenens*.

The character of this Council may be gathered from the antecedents of two of its members, Abraham Pasha and Nourian Effendi. The former is one of the wealthiest Armenians of Constantinople, and a large landowner. He was an intimate personal friend of Abdul Aziz, from whom he received his title, and, though he has incurred the suspicion of the present Sultan, has always kept aloof from politics. Nourian Effendi is a Member of the Council of State, and condemned to death by the Hintchagists. It is perhaps for security that he spends most of his time in the "Cercle d'Orient," engaged in the successful pursuit of games of skill. The other members are mostly merchants of great wealth and respectability.

This body proceeded to elect as *locum tenens* Mgr. Bartolomeos, ex-Metropolitan of Broussa. He filled this See during twelve years, and was always remarkable for his unswerving devotion to the Imperial throne, which was so little appreciated by his turbulent flock that they practically forced him to resign. He then received a house in Nishan Tash and a pension of 3,000 piastres. Both the Sultan and the Porte are much gratified by his election, and Izzet Bey informed him that His Imperial Majesty was inclined to give a favourable hearing to his requests.

The upper classes of Armenians acquiesce in the appointment as being probably the best under the present circumstances, but there is much dissatisfaction among the common people, who greatly respected Mgr. Ismirlian. The Armenian quarters are, however, carefully guarded and patrolled, and no disturbance has occurred.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 121.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 656. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 13, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 265 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit a despatch which I have received from Mr. Fitzmaurice reporting his proceedings and those of the Commission at Birejik up to the 22nd ultimo.

I have recommended the rewards mentioned by Mr. Fitzmaurice to the Grand Vizier, and his Highness appeared to entertain the suggestion very favourably.

The Grand Vizier, at my request, having instructed the Commission to proceed to Roum Kaleh and Ourfa if they are of opinion they can safely leave Birejik, I have directed Mr. Fitzmaurice to accompany them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)

Birejik, July 22, 1896.

Sir,

IN accordance with Sir P. Currie's telegraphic instructions of the 16th and 18th May to proceed to Birejik and watch the proceedings of the Sultan's Commission, assisting them by my advice and experience, I arrived here on the 16th June.

On the 17th May I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Embassy my surmise that the orders actually given to the Commission practically rendered it one of inquiry regarding the Armenian church at Birejik which had been converted into a mosque, and not a Commission to settle the Birejik conversion question.

On my arrival at Aleppo I learnt that the Commission had passed through Birejik about the beginning of May, had there examined the church recently become a mosque, inaugurated the new mosque by performing their prayers ("namaz") in it, reported to the Sultan, and passed on to Kharput, in fulfilment of their original instructions, to make a tour of inquiry in the six vilayets.

On your representations, Sir, they were recalled to Birejik, with instructions "to complete their inquiry." They did so, but assert they received no reply from the Palace.

On my arrival here they informed the Palace, asking for instructions, but again received none.

I informed them I had heard at Constantinople that they were to receive instructions to remain at Birejik until the confidence of the Armenians was completely restored, so as to enable those who wished to revert to Christianity to do so; and, secondly, to take such measures, *e.g.*, the replacing of the reserves by regular troops, as they deemed fit, to secure the above result. But they positively asserted, and I believe truly, that they never had received any such instructions, and that their sole instructions were to make an inquiry concerning the Armenian church converted into a mosque.

I then urged them to make some suggestions to the authority that sent them, but was met by the reply that Ottoman Palace etiquette did not permit of such practices on their part.

I again suggested they should examine a number of Armenians as to their wish to become Christians. To this they replied that they could not do so without instructions, and that they could not dare to ask for such instructions.

I therefore, on the 25th June, as soon as my cyphers arrived from Adana, telegraphed to you suggesting that the Palace should send some instructions to the Commission, or, at least, allow them to make some proposals.

On the 6th July you telegraphed that satisfactory instructions had been sent three times within the week to the Commission, but on my inquiry they informed me again, I believe truly, that they had not received a particle of instructions of any kind since my arrival here, although the Kaïmakam received instructions to afford protection to any Armenians who should revert to Christianity.

In fact I saw plainly that Constantinople, the Commission, and the local authorities were determined not to encourage, but rather to discourage the Armenians becoming Christians, as indeed was evident from the Commission having performed Moslem prayers in the Armenian church and their entire previous attitude in the question.

On the other hand, much as they desired to revert to Christianity, the Armenians, owing to their fears and the frequent menaces of the Mussulmans, to the effect that the axe and sword were ready for any who should become apostates (Turk "murtad") were prevented from approaching the Commission or myself, the situation being thus reduced to a deadlock.

Seeing that the only way out of it was to force the hand of the Government and Commission by confronting them with the "fait accompli" of some Armenians, declaring themselves Christians, and boldly demanding the protection of their Government, I determined on that course; but, aware that such an event might be followed by sinister consequences in view of the temper of the Moslems, I first endeavoured to get removed the prohibition against the Armenians leaving Birejik. For once the road was open, if, after they turned Christians, the hostility of the Moslems became too great, they (the Armenians) could always leave Birejik, especially, as during the presence here of the Commission and myself, that hostility would probably not take the form of overt violence.

Under the cover of various pretexts, I managed to induce some Armenians to approach me, and urged those of them who were desirous of quitting Birejik to apply to the Kaïmakam for permission to leave. They did so, and were refused. I thereupon saw the Kaïmakam and pointed out to him the extraordinary nature of this conduct in not granting to the Armenians either the necessary facilities to profess Christianity in Birejik, or the permission to go elsewhere in order to practice their old faith, a policy which, I said, was tantamount to forcing them to remain Moslems, by compelling them to remain in a place where the practice of Christianity was impossible.

He declared that he had no instructions to sanction an exodus, whereupon I urged him to apply for instructions, at the same time giving him to understand that I would have the matter laid before the Vali and the Constantinople authorities, which, in fact, I did.

Shortly afterwards, about the 28th June, the Kaïmakam received the required instructions, and the converts were free to leave Birejik if they found it expedient to do so.

This point gained, I repeated to the Armenians that as they were determined to profess Christianity at any cost, even that of abandoning their native place and remaining property, and of perhaps being reduced to beggary in strange towns, and as it would evidently be more to their advantage, if possible, to become Christians and remain at Birejik, they should take courage and make a trial of Christianity during the presence here of the Commission and myself, and that if they then found their position insupportable from the irreconcilable attitude of their fellow Moslem townsmen, they could always, while we were still here, fall back upon the second alternative of quitting Birejik.

The knowledge that the Armenian converts to Islam of Nisib, Ehnesh, Jibin, Roumkaleh, and Ourfa were watching the result of the Birejik question with the intention of shaping their conduct accordingly, and that if the Birejik converts abandoned their native town, they too would follow their example, strengthened my resolve to endeavour to re-establish a Christian community here.

At the same time I foresaw that anything like an exodus would favourably influence the Moslems, who cannot easily dispense with the Armenian shopkeepers, tradesmen, and artizans.

As the lukewarm attitude of the Government was more than discouraging, and the temper of the Moslems hostile, I advised the Armenians to proceed with caution, and first send a party of women less likely to be molested than the men, to declare themselves Christians to the Kaïmakam and Commission.

On the 2nd July fifteen women proceeded to the Government house declaring that they were Christians. The Kaïmakam came out to meet them at the door, and sent them away very summarily, telling them that they could be Moslems or Christians if they pleased.

As he would not allow them inside, they were prevented from seeing the Commission, which was staying at the Government house.

On their complaining to me, I at once reproached the Kaïmakam with his conduct, telling him I should be obliged to report him to Constantinople, and informing the Commission, who professed their readiness to see the women.

I further impressed upon them the necessity of warning the Moslem population not

to molest the women, and of punishing any Moslem who should use menacing language, at the same time pointing out the very grave responsibility they would incur if, as the result of neglecting to take such measures, any disagreeable consequences should ensue through unchecked menaces developing into acts.

On the 4th July women applied for and obtained a fairly satisfactory interview with the Commission, while, on my representations, a Mussulman was imprisoned for using threatening language, the result being that the threats of massacre in the bazaars in a great measure ceased.

At the same time, on your representations, the Kaïmakam received orders to protect any Armenians who should become Christians.

I then advised the Armenians to send to the Commission three poor men, who could, if necessary, leave the town at a moment's notice.

I arranged to be with the Commission when, on the 7th July, they came and declared themselves Christians, demanding protection, and asserting that they came on behalf of the whole community.

The Commission, while refusing to recognize them as representatives of the community, told them that any others who thought as they did were free to come forward.

The local authorities seeing that, in spite of their discouraging attitude, the Armenians were intending to declare themselves Christians, at once summoned the four chief Armenian Notables, and, while officially telling them they were free to become Christians or remain Mussulmans, hinted to them that it would be better for those who wanted to become Christians to leave Birejik and do so elsewhere.

This they did in deference to the feeling of some prominent fanatical Mussulmans who had given the rest of the population to understand that they would guarantee the four principal Armenians remaining Mussulmans, with the result that the rest of the community would either follow their example or quit the town, their reputation being thus at stake in keeping these four Armenians within the true fold.

A further reason was that these prominent Armenians had, during the past six months, evinced all the outward signs of sincerity in their new belief, had taken two and, in one case, three wives, had been circumcized with all the show and ceremony of a popular fête, and had been most anxious to learn and perform the numerous minute details of Mahommedan rite.

The remainder of the Armenian community, however, declared that, though they wished to become Christians at Birejik, they would abandon their property and leave the town if their four leaders remained Mussulmans.

The four leaders, influenced by the attitude of the Government and the Mussulman population, replied that they had gone too far to turn back, and that having been on such close relations with the Mussulmans in and out of the mosque, the whole resentment of the latter would fall on them.

I thereupon summoned the principal one, Hasher Effendi, and told him he must lay aside his fears, declare his real religious views, and take the risk, as the fate of the entire community and that of the surrounding villages hung on his decision, and that the authorities would be obliged to protect him and the others. This was on Friday, the 10th July.

The Kaïmakam and Commission had informed the Porte and Palace of the action of the women and three men, the Kaïmakam receiving in reply, probably owing to your official action, instructions referring him back to instructions given in the month of February to the effect that the Imperial Government did not officially recognize those who had embraced Islam during last year's disorders, and ordering him to afford protection to any Christians who should make an open profession of Christianity.

The Commission, however, received no reply from the Palace.

During Saturday and Sunday, the 11th and 12th, Hasher Effendi and his comrades again wavered under the influence of their fears, whereupon I sent word to them that I absolutely required of them to make a public profession of Christianity before evening, while at the same time I begged the Kaïmakam to summon and interrogate them.

This decided the matter, and on being summoned by the Kaïmakam they declared to him and the Commission that they had so far professed Islam through fear, but that they were Christians at heart. They were thereupon informed that they were at perfect liberty to practice their former faith and would be protected by the Government.

As you will have perceived, Sir, from the preceding narrative the Sultan has systematically refused to give instructions to the Commission which was sent direct by him, while those sent by the Porte to the Kaïmakam were to recognize and protect any who should return to Christianity, Constantinople having thus persistently abstained from

inviting the Armenians to renounce their fears. As those fears, originating in the massacre and kept alive by the continued menaces of the Moslems, were the cause of the Armenians becoming and remaining Mussulmans, the attitude of the Government was not one calculated to lead them to a profession of their former creed, and I have no hesitation in saying that were it not for the encouraging presence of a Representative of Her Majesty's Government, supported by your energetic action, the Armenians of Birejik would have either remained Moslem or abandoned their native town, the same alternative alone being open to the Armenian converts to Islam in the neighbouring villages.

Throughout my negotiations here on the conversion question, I purposely avoided making mention of the Armenian church converted into a mosque, anticipating that when once the Armenians had reverted to Christianity, the Commission, whose action in officially inaugurating it as a mosque was so questionable, would arrange that no serious difficulty, leading to a discussion of their conduct, should be raised on the point, and, as a matter of fact, I had very little trouble in having the key handed over to the Armenians on the 14th July, as I had the honour to report to you by telegraph on the same day.

As a result of my communication to the Protestant and Armenian Ecclesiastical authorities of Aintab, an Armenian priest and Protestant Pastor arrived from that town on the 15th July, and immediately began their spiritual work among the remnants of their former flocks.

Owing to the previous unsettled nature of the Birejik question, I had kept over £ T. 200, of the £ T. 500 allotted for Birejik relief, in virtue of the Relief Committee's telegraphic advice, transmitted to me here through Her Majesty's Embassy on the 5th March, devoting the sum already spent to the relief of the absolute wants of the Armenians here and of those who fled to Aleppo.

The Armenian priest and Protestant Pastor were delighted when they learnt that they were not to begin work empty-handed, and that there was at their disposal a sum sufficient to relieve pressing wants, and save many widows and orphans who, owing to their being deprived of their bread-winners, and the bare necessities of life, had taken refuge with and temporarily adopted the religion of Mussulman families.

During the week succeeding the reconversions of the Armenians, the authorities exerted themselves to protect the Christians from insult or injury, and all cases reported by me were promptly attended to, several Mussulmans being imprisoned for using threatening language. The result was that perfect tranquillity of an abnormal and perhaps artificial nature began to prevail in the town.

To extend this to the surrounding country and to give it a more solid and permanent character, I begged the Kaïmakam to summon the neighbouring tribal Chiefs, and order them to take measures to prevent their followers from in any way molesting the ex-converts who might have occasion to visit the villages on business.

This having been done, I suggested to you by telegraph that the reserve troops should be replaced by regulars, and that the prominent Moslems should be required to give a written guarantee that the Christians would not be molested.

A battalion of regular troops reached here on Monday morning, the 20th July, their arrival producing an excellent effect; but in a telegram received by me the same day, you informed me that it would be difficult to ask for a written guarantee.

After reflection, I had the honour to telegraph, in reply, on the 21st July, that a written guarantee, though difficult to obtain, would give the Armenians almost absolute security, and admit of the earlier departure of myself and the Commission.

Another measure which would have great value in securing the same end would be that the Imperial Ottoman Government should reward, by an increase of rank or decoration, Hadji Jacherid Agha and Nejib Effendi, two Mussulmans who strove manfully to avert the disorders which took place here on the 1st January last, the former having been mentioned in Annex (A) to my report from here of the 5th March; and also Rejat Chaoush, a sergeant of the Birejik foot gendarmes, who is of irreproachable character, and similarly rendered great services during the disorders and since. He might be promoted to a lieutenancy in the mounted gendarme force.

The effect of such action of the Ottoman Government on the elements of disorder in this town would be excellent, showing them that Government appreciates the conduct of those who sided with law and order.

I have induced the Kamaïkam to make the same proposal to his Government, and shall follow the matter up with the Vali of Aleppo.

The Commission, moreover, at my request, has begged the Vali to recommend the present Kamaïkam, Khalib Sidki Effendi, for promotion to the rank of "Emir-ulumera," and I shall not fail to support their recommendation at Aleppo.

Your representations, in the same sense, at the Ministry of the Interior on the Grand Vizierate would, I believe, contribute to this most desirable and invaluable result.

If both these measures, especially the former, are adopted, I believe the present security of the Birejik Armenians will be of a permanent nature, and I do not apprehend that they will be exposed to any danger on account of their present reconversion to Christianity. I do not, however, predict the same immunity for them in the event of a fresh rebellion of Zeitoun, or the Ottoman Empire being exposed to any great danger from outside.

I told them that henceforth they must take as their line of conduct never to meddle in forbidden politics, and that if their Moslem neighbours are at any time obliged to defend their country, they, too, must show their readiness and alacrity to assist in defending that common country, and rely for protection on the clemency of the prominent Moslems.

If I have exceeded my instructions in inducing the Armenians, despite the discouraging attitude of their authorities to revert to Christianity here at Birejik, instead of allowing them to abandon their houses and remaining property, in which course they would have been followed by the village converts, I believe I have done so in their own interests. I have been careful all along to cultivate the most friendly relations with the prominent Moslems, and to work as much as possible through the Commission and the local authorities, knowing that if the reversion of the Armenians to Christianity appeared to come from the Government, it would have a better effect on the Moslems than if it appeared to come from a foreigner. And the fact of the Kaïmakam having at my private suggestion summoned the principal Armenians on Sunday, the 12th July, actually did give their return to Christianity, in the eyes of the population, the appearance of being the result of Government action, and the good effect as regards the Moslems will be all the more lasting.

The successful re-establishment of a Christian community at Birejik has had a far-reaching calming effect in the neighbouring regions, notably at Aintab and Ourfa, and may prove a very useful precedent in regard to the exceedingly delicate question whether such converts to Islam are to be considered as apostates ("murtad"), and consequently liable to death on their reverting to their former religion.

I may add that when passing through Aleppo the Vali expressed to me his opinion that the only possible solution of the Birejik question was for the converts to quit their native town, while the Armenians themselves a week before their reversion declared it a sheer impossibility for them ever to openly profess themselves Christians with safety in Birejik, and they are now exceedingly pleased to find that the consequences are not so dire as they expected.

I have great pleasure in stating that in spite of their action in performing Moslem prayers in the Armenian church, and the fact that their hands were practically tied by their not receiving instructions from the Palace, the members of the Commission have on the whole been ready to assist me in favourably influencing the Moslems and local authorities.

The Commission was composed of Emin Bey, Assistant Judge of the Stamboul Criminal Court of First Instance, with civil rank corresponding to that of General of Division; Colonel Sadik Bey and Lieutenant-Colonel Abdurrahim Bey, Aides-de-camp of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan; and Ohannes Effendi, Assistant Judge of the Pera Correctional Court.

In a subsequent report I shall deal with the question of the reconversion of the Armenian converts to Islamism at Nisib and the Roum Kaleh villages of Ehnesh, Jibin, and Khalluti, with regard to whom I am at present in communication with the local authorities and the villages themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 122.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 226.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 624 of the 5th instant relative to proceedings of the Kaïmakam of Birejik in connection with Armenians forcibly converted to the Mahommedan religion.

I approve of the action which you took in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 123.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 227.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 625 of the 5th instant relative to the position of the Armenians of Birejik.

I approve of the steps which you have taken to obtain the removal from that town of Ahmed Effendi, the Mayor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 124.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 230. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 19, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 575, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, relative to the forced conversions in the Vilayet of Aleppo.

I approve of the language which you held to Tewfik Pasha at your interview with him on the 16th ultimo, and of the message which you requested him to convey to the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 125.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 339.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 20, 1896, 11·45 A.M.*

MR. MASSY, apprehending an outbreak at Adana, had suggested that a man-of-war should be ready to leave Alexandretta in the event of bad news being received there.

I do not know if there is a man-of-war at Alexandretta or not.

No. 126.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 341.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 21, 1896, 11·50 A.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Diarbekir telegraphed yesterday as follows:—

"The Syrian Patriarch, who lives here, has, I hear, sent a letter a fortnight ago to the Queen, in which he expressed his satisfaction with the Turkish authorities, and stated that the Armenians were responsible for the disturbances. He was elected last year contrary to the wish of the majority of his people, partly by the influence of the Vali, and partly by bribery. He is a man of bad character.

"The Syrians have suffered as much as the Armenians in this district."

No. 127.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 346.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 23, 1896, 11·30 A.M.*

THE Commission of Inquiry has left Birejik for Roum-Kaleh and Ourfa accompanied by Mr. Fitzmaurice.

No. 128.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 347.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 23, 1896, 10·45 A.M.*

MR. DRUMMOND HAY telegraphed from Beyrout yesterday as follows:—

"The rebellion in the Hauran.

"I have been informed confidentially by the Governor-General here that the difficulties of the army of occupation had been found by the Imperial Commissioners sent to Damascus too great for them to cope with.

"His Excellency believed that if persons likely to inspire trust with the Druses were attached to the Mission satisfactory results would be obtained.

"He shared my views, as expressed in my telegram of the 8th July, that it would be advisable to choose for that purpose either Notables of the Lebanon Druses or religious Heads."

No. 129.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 660.) *Constantinople, August 18, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Massy, reporting on the state of unrest in the Vilayet of Adana, fear of a rising of Armenians being the alleged reason for the attitude of the authorities, and for the large number of troops under arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Vice-Consul Massy to Mr. Herbert.

Adana, August 1, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that there exists, on the part of the Government officials of this province, a feeling of unrest and insecurity for the future which would appear to point to possible troubles in the near future.

I have heard, on good authority, that a telegram was received from the Palace at Constantinople, a few days ago, telling the Wali that further risings on the part of the Armenians were expected, and telling him "to be ready," which must be interpreted as giving him the office to start a massacre on the slightest pretext.

The coast is still lined with troops, and I have been told that seven battalions of Redifs are to be called out at once in this province, to supplement the existing force. These precautions are popularly supposed to be directed against a feared landing by England.

For months past it is common talk that the word has gone forth to massacre every Christian, of no matter what nationality, should any foreign armed intervention commence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 130.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 662.) *Therapia, August 18, 1896.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 655, Confidential, of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the *locum tenens* of the Armenian Patriarch was received in audience by the Sultan after the ceremony of the Selamlik last Friday; and

I inclose herewith an extract from the "Levant Herald" containing the address which Mgr. Bartolomeos read on that occasion.*

The official gazette of yesterday contained the announcement that the following decorations had been conferred on Armenian ecclesiastics:—

Bartolomeos Effendi, *locum tenens* of the Patriarchate, first class of the Mejidié.

Archbishop Mesrob, ex-Metropolitan of Adrianople and member of the Mixed Council, second class of the Osmanié.

Kevork, Acting Patriarch of Jerusalem and member of the Mixed Council, and Arsadakés, Confessor and adopted son of the *locum tenens*, third class of the Mejidié.

Iznif Effendi, private Secretary of the *locum tenens*, fourth class of the Mejidié.

Abraham Pasha, a member of the new Lay Council, called on me a few days ago, probably owing to orders from the Palace, and stated that the Sultan was now going to adopt a more conciliatory attitude towards the Armenians.

All those who were in prison, excepting persons convicted of criminal offences, would shortly be released. Orders had been sent to the Governors of the provinces to treat all Mussulmans and Armenians alike, and special attention would be paid to the execution of the reforms desired by the Armenians. I asked Abraham Pasha if he really believed that all these promises would be carried out. He shrugged his shoulders, and replied, "il faut l'espérer."

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 131.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 664.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 18, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Sivas, inclosing copy of a letter which is stated to have been sent round to the neighbouring villages two days before the massacre which took place last autumn at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 131.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Mr. Herbert.

Sivas, August 12, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy and translation of letter, sent round to the Heads of some of the villages, in the neighbourhood of Sivas, previously to the massacre last autumn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 131.

Translation of Letter sent round to the Heads of some of the Villages in the Neighbourhood of Sivas.

IT is known to you that for some years past the Armenian sect, unmindful of benefits, have brought about a state of affairs opposed to Turkey. The local Government, being accurately informed, that the Armenians here, too, in obedience to the Committee of Disturbance, will, this following Tuesday, that is after two days, while the Mussulmen are in the mosques, attack the mosques, and make a destruction of the lives,

* Not printed.

he honour, and the property of the Mussulmen, have taken the necessary precautions, but from the natural desire of the people to protect the religion of Islam, you are desired to inform your village and the villages in the neighbourhood to be present here on the above-mentioned day.

No. 132.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 667.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 20, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract of a telegram which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van in regard to the measures which, in his opinion, should be taken by the Porte to restore confidence in that town.

I have communicated the substance of this telegram to the Porte, but the Turkish Government have no money at their disposal to send to Van, and I fear that there is no prospect of their giving a free hand to the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Vice-Consul Williams to Mr. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.) *Van, August* 15, 1896.

VALI has asked Porte for large sum of money. Secondly, cavalry regiment to be permanent. Thirdly, special power to form summary court. Fourthly, Hamidieh to be subject to local authorities when they are not embodied. Fifthly, some control over troops.

He is in earnest if given free hand, and should be able to restore confidence.

If not supported, I foresee nothing but anarchy.

No. 133.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 355.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 26, 1896, 7·35 P.M.

AN attack was made this afternoon on the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Galata by a band of some forty armed Armenians, who took possession of the building, and are now firing from the windows at the police who surround the place.

The Embassies received an anonymous communication yesterday warning them that something was going to happen, and the attack was evidently the result of an organized plan.

The situation is very serious, as the Turkish mob has assumed a threatening attitude, and are clubbing Armenians in the streets.

There are rumours that other parts of Constantinople are the scenes of similar disorders.

No. 134.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 356.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 27, 1896, 9·55 A.M.

MY immediately preceding telegram.

The Armenians were induced to leave the Ottoman Bank early this morning under promise of safe-conduct from the Sultan. Sir Edgar Vincent has had them placed on his yacht, and they will be shipped out of the country this afternoon.

There was considerable loss of life, I am afraid, last evening, owing to the action of the mob, and several shops were pillaged.

To-day there seems to be some improvement in the situation. The troops, who at first took no steps to protect Christians, are now disarming the Turkish mob.

There is a meeting of the Representatives of the Great Powers this morning to discuss what steps should be taken.

Her Majesty's ship "Dryad" left here for Constantinople last night, and the "Imogene" followed this morning.

No. 135.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 357.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 27, 1896, 1·5 P.M.

IN accordance with the decision taken by the Representatives of the Great Powers at their meeting this morning, the English and French stationnaires guarded Sir E. Vincent's yacht on which the revolutionists were placed until the latter were removed by the French launch and put on board the French Messageries boat, which then left (at 5 P.M.) for Marseilles.

Their safe-conduct was granted to the revolutionists by the Sultan owing to their threat to blow up with dynamite the premises of the Bank where 181 employés were shut up, and through the exertions of Sir E. Vincent and the Russian First Dragoman, by whom the evacuation of the Bank was negotiated.

After the evacuation, 47 bombs, 27 dynamite cartridges, and 18 kilog. of dynamite were discovered in the Bank.

It was evident that the *coup* was well organized. The Turks made no attempt to prevent the departure of the revolutionists on the French steamer. It was solely due to the conviction that it was necessary to respect the promises made to the revolutionists by Sir E. Vincent and the Russian First Dragoman, that the foreign Representatives intervened on behalf of these criminals, who cannot be condemned too strongly and who have been the cause of the murder of hundreds of innocent Armenians both yesterday and to-day.

No. 136

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 358.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 27, 1896, 10 P.M.

THIS morning the Representatives of the Powers made a strong protest in a collective note to the Porte against the inaction of the troops, and the total absence of security in Constantinople.

Russian, French, and English Dragomans also went to the Palace with instructions to insist that the indiscriminate slaughter of Armenians which has been going on since yesterday afternoon should be stopped, and that proper measures should be taken to restrain the mob.

The Dragomans were assured that the troops were in control of the town, and that all necessary orders had been given to them to disarm the mob, and to prevent disorders.

Accompanied by Mr. Eliot and Mr. Max Müller, I subsequently went to Constantinople, and was a personal witness to the total inaction of the troops. I saw that the mob were still in possession of clubs, and the attempt to disarm them was a mere farce. The Armenians were being hunted down like rabbits. Desultory firing went on all the afternoon, and the situation appeared in no way improved. In view of the state of anarchy which prevailed, and of the inaction of the troops, I have considered it my duty to land sailors and marines, and to place them on guard at the Embassy, Consulate, and Post Office, the presence of Armenian employés, and of the refugees rendering the latter place liable to serious attack.

I also sent the First Dragoman back to the Palace to inform the Sultan of the steps taken in consequence of the way in which the troops were behaving, in spite of his alleged orders. His Majesty guaranteed that order would be restored to-morrow.

and stated that fresh instructions would be sent to his troops. He requested that I should withdraw the sailors and the marines.

I replied that I would not withdraw them until I was satisfied that there was no danger to British subjects. I also held the same language to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw at 9 o'clock this evening. Unless orders are given to the troops to fire on the Mussulman mob, one cannot tell what may happen. A few men have, I believe, been also placed on guard at their respective Embassies by other Representatives.

No. 137.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 239.)

Foreign Office, August 27, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 656, Confidential, of the 13th instant, inclosing a report from Mr. Fitzmaurice of his proceedings at Birejik, which have resulted in the re-establishment of a Christian community at that place; and I have to request you to inform Mr. Fitzmaurice that his action in this matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I approve the steps you have taken to recommend to the Grand Vizier the rewards suggested by Mr. Fitzmaurice, and your instructions to the latter, to accompany the Commission when they leave Birejik for Roum Kaleh and Ourfa

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 138.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 240.)

Foreign Office, August 27, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 616 of the 3rd instant, inclosing a report from Mr. Acting Consul Richards of the release of Artin Emmi and four other Armenians imprisoned at Angora on a charge of murder.

I have to request you to convey to Mr. Richards my approval of his action, which has resulted in the discharge of these prisoners.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 139.

Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulo Pasha.—(Communicated August 28.)

(Télégraphique.) *Sublime Porte, le* 26 *Août*, 1896.

DES agitateurs Arméniens ont tiré aujourd'hui des coups de feu sur les passants à Galata et ont lancé des bombes en vue de troubler la sécurité de la capitale.

Grâce aux mesures énergiques prises par le Gouvernement Impérial, les fauteurs ne tarderont pas à être arrêtés et livrés à la justice.

La tranquillité règne tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces de l'Empire.

No. 140.

Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulo Pasha.—(Communicated August 28.)

(Télégraphique.) *Sublime Porte, le* 27 *Août*, 1896.

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme Circulaire d'hier relatif aux désordres qui ont été commis par les Anarchistes Arméniens dans la capitale, je viens vous informer que le Comité Central des révolutionnaires Arméniens de Constantinople avait organisé sur une très vaste échelle un programme de désordres et d'actes

criminels pour poursuivre la réalisation d'un but chimérique. A cet effet un nombre considérable de ceux-ci, divisés en groupes séparés, commencèrent à la même heure leurs méfaits séditieux sur divers points de la ville. Outre les revolvers et poignards dont tous les révolutionnaires étaient munis, les engins dont ils se servirent le plus sont des bombes en fer remplies de dynamite. Hier, vers midi, une cinquantaine d'entre eux entrèrent par petits groupes et à intervalles séparées dans le grand "hall" de la Banque Impériale Ottomane; l'officier de garde leur ayant demandé ce qu'ils faisaient là et pourquoi ils y stationnaient, ils lui brûlèrent la cervelle pour toute réponse et tuèrent en même temps les gendarmes qui s'y trouvaient et jetèrent leurs têtes tranchées dans la rue du tramway. Profitant du désordre et de l'affolement que ces crimes provoquèrent, ils s'empressèrent de fermer les portes de l'établissement financier et commencèrent leur œuvre de destruction en lançant sans cesse des bombes dans les rues sur les passants et en tirant des coups de feu sur un grand nombre d'innocents et paisibles habitants vaquant à leurs affaires; entre autres quatre dames Turques traversant la rue en voiture ont été mises en pièce par les éclats des engins destructeurs. Deux employés de la Banque, les sujets Français MM. Georges Grablesky et Alfred Pix, qui se sauvaient par une fenêtre à l'aide d'une corde, ont été blessés par les Arméniens et ne durent leur salut qu'à l'intervention des soldats de ligne qui firent un rempart de leurs corps. Leurs déclarations écrites et signées se trouvent au Ministère de la Police.

Pendant que ces faits sanglants se déroulaient à Galata, le khan de Djelal Bey, sis à Stamboul, était envahi par d'autres révolutionnaires et une pluie de bombes tombaient dans les rues avoisinantes tuant et blessant les passants. A Haskeuy, c'était le corps de garde qui a été surpris par une autre bande. L'officier de service a été tué, ainsi que plusieurs soldats et c'est après bien des efforts qu'on a pu arrêter les envahisseurs à Soulou Monastir, quartier de Samatia (Stamboul). Beaucoup d'Anarchistes Arméniens se barricadèrent aussi à l'école et pendant longtemps lancèrent des bombes et tirèrent des coups de feu sur les Musulmans et les agents de police, qui les exhortaient à se rendre et tuèrent ainsi un grand nombre de personnes.

Le nombre des bombes découvert soit à la Banque soit dans les maisons barricadées, des monastères et écoles, est considérable; l'église Arménienne de Balouk Bazar sise à Péra ayant été inspectée ce matin, un grand nombre de ces bombes à dynamite y ont été aussi découvert. Le Comité Révolutionnaire n'avait donc, comme on le voit, rien négligé pour surprendre les esprits et jeter le désordre dans toute la ville.

Sous l'égide de Sa Majesté Impériale notre auguste Maître, leur plan criminel a été déjoué; son Excellence le Ministre de l'Intérieur parcourt en personne les rues pour exhorter les populations au calme et à la tranquillité; des patrouilles militaires parcourent les rues et toute agglomération de personnes indistinctement de race et de religion est dispersée par la simple persuasion. La Banque Impériale a été débloquée cette nuit même; la population Musulmane, objet des attaques des révolutionnaires, en se défendant, fit aussi des victimes parmi les assemblants, et un certain nombre de tués et de blessés se trouve parmi ces derniers. La masse des Arméniens fidèle au Gouvernement Impérial est tellement outrée des forfaits accomplis par leurs criminels compatriotes que Sa Béatitude le *locum tenens* du Patriarchat Arménien vient de lancer une Bulle d'excommunication au nom de Jésus-Christ contre tous les meneurs et fauteurs des désordres d'hier en faisant part à la Sublime Porte de cette mesure communiquée. Mgr. Bartholoméos prie le Gouvernement Impérial de faire publier officiellement par la voie de la presse cette mesure de l'Église. Cette attitude du Chef de la communauté religieuse Arménienne suffirait à elle seule pour stigmatiser à jamais les criminels qui se font les instruments d'une cause que l'Europe civilisée réprouve et désigne sous le nom d'Anarchisme et de Nihilisme.

No. 141.

Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulo Pasha.—(Communicated August 28.)

(Télégraphique.) *Sublime Porte, le* 28 *Août*, 1896.

UNE Commission Spéciale vient d'être instituée au Ministère de la Police avec mission de faire subir un interrogatoire aux révolutionnaires arrêtés hier et aujourd'hui les armes à la main, ainsi qu'aux Musulmans qui ont été arrêtés sous

l'inculpation de représailles. Les coupables seront déférés aux Tribunaux ordinaires pour subir les peines édictées par la loi. Cette Commission se compose de huit membres Chrétiens et Musulmans, sous la présidence de Djelal Bey, Conseiller à la Cour de Cassation.

No. 142.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 359.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 28, 1896, 3·10 P.M.

LAST night disturbances spread to the Bosphorus, and Armenians were massacred at Candilli, Roumeli, Hissar, and Bebek. About midnight I sent Her Majesty's ship "Imogene" to Candilli to take off English refugees, and I have directed the naval Commander at Tophane to requisition British merchant vessels in the harbour, on board of which all English refugees desiring asylum are to be placed.

No British subject has, as far as I know, yet been killed, but the mob have entered the houses of many Englishmen for the purpose of putting their Armenian servants to death. It seems to be the intention of the Turkish authorities to exterminate the Armenians whenever found. Two Armenians who were passing have just been killed under my own eyes by the soldiers at the Block-house adjoining this Embassy. I hear that for the moment things in town are quieter, but on the Bosphorus the situation wears a very serious aspect.

No. 143.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 361.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 28, 1896, 3·45 P.M.

HER Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," which was on her way to the Danube, remains here at my request.

No. 144.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 362.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 28, 1896, 3·45 P.M.

EARLY this morning the six Representatives telegraphed as follows to the Sultan:—

"Les Représentants des Grandes Puissances réunis pour conférer sur la situation se croient en devoir de signaler à l'attention la plus sérieuse de Sa Majesté Impériale les nouvelles graves qui leur parviennent au sujet de la continuation des désordres dans la capitale et dans ses environs. Des bandes de gens armés ne cessent de poursuivre et de tuer impunément les Arméniens et non contents de les exterminer dans les rues entrent dans les maisons, même dans celles occupées par des étrangers, pour se saisir de leurs victimes et les massacrer. Des faits pareils se sont passés sous les yeux de quelques-uns des Représentants eux-mêmes et de plusieurs des membres de leurs Ambassades. Outre la ville de telles horreurs ont eu lieu encore cette nuit dans plusieurs villages du Bosphore tels que Bebec, Roumeli Hissar, Candilli, et autres. En présence de faits semblables les Représentants des Grandes Puissances s'adressent aux noms de leurs Gouvernements directement à la personne de votre Majesté, comme Chef de l'État, pour lui demander instamment de donner sans délai des ordres précis et catégoriques propres à mettre fin immédiatement à cet état de choses inouï, qui est de nature à amener pour son Empire des conséquences les plus désastreuses."

No. 145.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 363.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 28, 1896, 11·35 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day No. 359.

As there was no British steamer in the harbour I have chartered for the next five days the Austrian Lloyd steamer "Hungaria" at the rate of 20*l.* a-day, and about fifty of the English colony at Bebek have been placed on board. There is a decided improvement in the situation at Galata and Pera, and the troops appear to be doing their duty.

The revolutionists, however, threw another bomb this afternoon on troops who were returning from the Selamlik, and the Embassies have received a further letter from the Revolutionary Committee stating that the Armenians, being disgusted at the inaction of the Powers, and being absolutely desperate, are about to recommence operations.

On the Bosphorus the situation is also threatening.

During the last three days the loss of life among Armenians has been very great, and although it is impossible to form an accurate estimate, the deaths may be calculated in thousands. About 200 Turkish soldiers are said to have been killed and wounded. Two British-protected subjects at Post Office in Stamboul have disappeared, and a large number of English shops and stores have been pillaged.

As I fear there is every probability of massacres being repeated in the provinces, I have sent a Circular to the Consuls to inform them of disturbances here, and to warn them to be on their guard.

No. 146.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 29.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, August* 29, 1896.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram dated the 28th August, from the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean respecting the Armenian outbreak in Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Admiral Sir M. Seymour to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Malta, August* 28, 1896.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from "Dryad" at Constantinople 28th August:—

"Have chartered Austrian Lloyd's 'Hungary' at 20*l.* by day for English refugees. No British ship available.

"Bombs thrown to-day at troops returning from Sultan's Palace."

No. 147.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 364.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 29, 1896, *midnight.*

MY telegram No. 362 of 28th August.

Last night the Minister for Foreign Affairs was sent by the Sultan to Baron Calice to state, in reply to our collective telegram, that every measure was being taken to restore order. Such a message had never been received by His Majesty before, and he

wanted to know what was the signification of the menace with which the telegram concluded. Baron Calice replied, that hitherto half Europe had been incredulous about the massacres which had taken place in the provinces, but that now they had occurred in the capital everybody would realize the truth and the fact that the Turkish Government was no longer in a position to maintain order, even in Constantinople, or to protect Christians. This being the state of the case, the nature of the remedy to be applied would have to be considered.

No. 148.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 365. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 29, 1896, 12·30 A.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs was informed last night by the Russian Ambassador that if any massacre of Armenians took place at Buyukdere, the Russian gun-boat would be ordered to take up its position opposite the Turkish quarter, which it would bombard.

M. de Nélidow also informed the Head of the Municipality that, on the occurrence of any disturbances he would land armed men, who would remove him and hold him as a hostage on board the "stationnaire."

This morning a detachment of Russian sailors was landed in order to attend the funeral of one of the two Armenians whom the soldiers killed yesterday, a few paces from the English Embassy, the body having been transported to the Armenian church at Buyukdere. The sailors had orders, I understand, to bury him with military honours. Considerable effect has been created on the Turkish Government by this energetic action.

As the murder of the two Armenians above mentioned was witnessed by the Italian Ambassador and myself, we have asked that an inquiry should be instituted, and that the soldiers who killed the men should be punished.

No. 149.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 366.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 30, 1896, 12·20 A.M.

TRANQUILLITY in Constantinople and on the Bosphorus seemed perfectly established last night and to-day, until about 6 o'clock this evening, when in the neighbourhood of the Ottoman Bank in Galata some Armenians threw a bomb, which was followed by heavy firing on the part of the soldiers.

There was also a commencement of disturbances at Arnaoutkeui, on the Bosphorus, and in Stamboul.

No further details are yet to hand, but it would appear that the disorders are being repressed by the troops, and that the mob has no longer possesion of the town, as it had two days ago.

It cannot be denied that this repeated bomb throwing on the part of the Armenians is a cause of great provocation to the Turks.

No. 150.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 367.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 30, 1896, 12·30 P.M.

MY immediately-preceding telegram.

The Armenians threw several bombs last night from a house next door to the Bank. Soldiers entered, and eight of the culprits were arrested. It is stated by officials of the British Consulate, which is only a few yards from the spot, that the behaviour of the troops both there and in other parts of Galata was good, and that no part was taken in the disturbance by the mob.

For the moment the situation is quieter, but there is every reason to believe that bombs will continue to be thrown by the Armenians, who are in a state of desperation.

It follows naturally that the Turkish population are becoming more and more exasperated, and there is great danger for the future, as, although at present the massacre has been confined to Armenians, the feeling of the populace may turn against the general body of Christians.

No. 151.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 368. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 30, 1896, 12·45 P.M.

THE Italian Ambassador has telegraphed to his Government for a second "stationnaire." He also thinks it necessary that ships of war should be in the neighbourhood, and, if possible, that their movements should be kept quiet, to avoid talk about the arrival of fleets.

He has accordingly asked that two or three men-of-war should be sent separately to Salonica and Smyrna.

It seems to me that it would be difficult to keep the matter secret.

No. 152.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 369.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 30, 1896, 3·50 P.M.

MR. CATONI telegraphs as follows from Aleppo:—

"I respectfully suggest that, in view of the present critical state of affairs, another man-of-war should be sent to Alexandretta, and should pay occasional visits to Suedia."

No. 153.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 370.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 30, 1896, 3·55 P.M.

SITUATION at Bebek seeming perfectly calm, I have thought that the continued retention of the "Hungaria" as a refuge for British subjects would not be justified; the refugees, although somewhat unwilling, have accordingly been landed this morning, and Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" has taken up her position in the Bay of Bebek, where for the present she will remain.

No. 153*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 371.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 30, 1896, *midnight.*

THE houses in the vicinity of the Bank from which bombs continue to be thrown by Armenians, being the property of foreign subjects, the six Representatives have been asked by the Turkish Government to permit a search with the usual Consular formalities to be made in these buildings.

We have consented on following conditions:—

Every search must be made after previous agreement between the Consul or his Delegate and the Ottoman authorities in the presence of the latter.

No arrest is to be made without the consent of the Consul or his Delegate.

Explosive machines and substances, as well as arms, are to be handed over to the Ottoman authorities.

Finally, that this measure is of a provisional and exceptional character.

This concession has been made by us as the only method of terminating the bomb throwing, the continuance of which might lead to an attack on the European colonies in Constantinople and complete anarchy.

No. 154.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 671.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 21, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 649 of the 12th August, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the terms of peace which have been proposed to the Druses by the Turkish Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Damascus, August 8, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that since the return of the Turkish troops to Bosrah-el-Harir there has been no further fighting, but they are suffering severely from the heat and a great deal of sickness is the result; 180 sick have been sent back to Damascus.

Meanwhile, rumours are rife to the effect that an armistice has been arranged, and that the Mushir has come to terms with the Druses. To the best of my belief these rumours are premature, but the Mushir has doubtless received orders to treat with the Druses, as he has sent back to Damascus three battalions (one of which has left for Beyrout), and also has informed two Druse Sheikhs, who sent in their submission, that he would not treat with them separately but as a whole.

I have just heard that the Commission of three members which left for Bosrah had an interview with three Sheikhs, and proposed the following terms:—

1. The Druses to restore 2,600 Martini rifles, 400 mules, and 200 horses.

2. The culprits in the matter of the attack on the Turkish troops at Orman to be handed over to the Ottoman Government.

3. The Druses to submit to the regulations and orders of the Government.

Ten days' delay has been granted for a reply.

It is very difficult to prophesy where the Druses are concerned, but the last condition is so comprehensive that it seems doubtful if the Druses will again trust to the tender mercies of the Government without guarantees of some kind. Some Lebanon Druses have also stated to me that they do not think their co-religionists will accept these terms. I presume it principally depends upon the position of the Druses and their capability of further resistance, with regard to which I am at present absolutely in the dark.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 155.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 675.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 25, 1896.*

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 667 of the 20th August, the measures which Shems-ed-Din, the new Vali of Van, thought necessary for the satisfactory re-establishment of order in that vilayet.

I am now informed that these proposals were laid before the Council of Ministers, but rejected as inopportune.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 156.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 677.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 26, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Angora respecting the state of poverty of that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Acting Consul Richards to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Angora, August 19, 1896.*

I WOULD beg to draw your attention for a moment to the almost daily increasing poverty of a considerable proportion of the inhabitants of this vilayet, whether Christian or Mahommedan. In the town one hears constant complaints of the badness of trade, the continuous and rapid depreciation in the value of house and landed property, the general inability to comply with the exactions of the tax-collector, who was never known to be so pertinacious and unyielding, the state of absolute destitution existing among many who formerly, though poor, were always sure of a living, and the merest hand-to-mouth existence led by many more who in years past may be said to have been comfortably well off.

Of the state of things in the country districts one has less personal knowledge, but the most cursory glance at the columns of the local newspaper reveals at once the fact that the agriculturists are, if possible worse off than the townspeople. I see that during the last two months 4,172 dunums (about 1,043 acres) of land of various kinds were sold in order to satisfy the claims on their owners of, in most cases, the agricultural banks. The greater part of these unfortunate bankrupt peasants belong to the Sandjak of Angora, the remainder being divided between the Sandjaks of Chorum and Cæsarea. I also find in my list 27 houses, 10 shops, and 3 stables as being also for sale for the same reason, viz., inability to pay debts incurred last year. When it is remembered that the great majority of peasants will have no dealings whatever with the agricultural banks because of the many tedious formalities which the obtaining of a loan from one of these establishments entails, not to mention the still more important consideration that the private money-lender (generally a Christian) rarely proceeds to extremities with his debtors, the number of peasants who have been and are constantly being "sold up" by their creditors, the agricultural banks, is most significant.

Fortunately, this year's harvest promises to be excellent, but, even so, I am assured on good authority there is every probability of great privation and suffering among the agricultural classes during the coming winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—Among other causes of distress is one which affects both the peasants and a large number of townspeople, viz., the fall in the price of mohair, which from 27 piastres the oke for last year's clip in the early spring, is now at 17 piastres, and even so there are no buyers. The villagers, who might have sold even this year's wool at the rate of 24 piastres the oke, refrained from doing so, in the hope that there would be a still further rise, of which, however, there would appear to be absolutely no prospect at present.

W. S. R.

No. 157.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 679.)
Constantinople, August 26, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 515 of the 2nd July last I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Trebizond, reporting the passage through that town of Kurdish Hamidieh troops, together with extracts from the local press, reporting their arrival in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Acting Consul Shipley to Mr. Herbert.

Trebizond, August 15, 1896.

Sir,

IN continuation of my telegram of yesterday's date I have the honour to report to you that the Kurdish Regiment of Hamidieh cavalry, which left this port for Constantinople on the 13th instant, on board the Turkish steamers "Murmet," "Nimet-i-Huda," and "Hodeïda," was composed of the following troops:—

1. 150 men of the Ziriki tribe from Khinous, under the command of Kouli Khan, of Scuïlemez.
2. 150 men of the Karapakak tribe of the Alashgherd Plain, under Tashdah Agha.
3. 150 men of the Hassanti tribe, from Melazgherd, under Fethi Bey.
4. 150 men of the Haïderanli tribe from Alashgherd, under Mehmet Effendi.
5. Some 150 Arabs of different tribes, thus making in all a total of some 750 horse, the whole under the command of Ibrahim Pasha of Milli, in the district of Mossul.

A stay of two days only was made by the above regiment at Trebizond, during which time discipline was fairly well maintained, one or two cases only, comparatively trifling, of goods having been taken without payment, having been reported. This is the more satisfactory as considerable apprehension had been entertained by the townspeople on first hearing that these Kurds were to pass through, and it was only owing to the personal intervention of the Vali himself, Cadri Bey, that the shops were not closed during the period of their stay.

Nevertheless, their visit can hardly be said to have been welcome, and a feeling of relief was felt at their departure by Turks and Christians alike.

The issue of uniforms to these Kurds at Erzinghian, of which the cost, I may mention, was borne by this vilayet, had the effect of giving them a more soldierly appearance than the Kurdish irregulars whom I had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with during my visit to Kurdistan of last year. But at Trebizond, as at Erzeroum, the general opinion is not favourable to their efficiency as a fighting force, and if their destination, as has been rumoured here, is Macedonia, it is felt that their employment in that region is likely to be productive of more harm than good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 158.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 278. Confidential.)
Berlin, August 28, 1896.

My Lord,

BARON VON MARSCHALL told me this morning that he had spoken most seriously to Galib Bey, the Turkish Ambassador here, about the disorders which had broken out at Constantinople, and had told him that it was absolutely necessary that the Sultan should put an end to the scandals which had existed for so long.

On my expressing a doubt whether Galib Bey would venture to report such strong language to the Sultan, Baron von Marschall said that he had promised to do so, and, moreover, that the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople had decided to make a strong representation to His Majesty.

Baron von Marschall added that, although the news from Constantinople was more satisfactory last night, he had received a telegram from the German Ambassador that fresh disorders had broken out this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 159.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 372.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 31, 1896, 1·50 P.M.

AN hour having been appointed as usual by Master of Ceremonies to receive the congratulations of the Dragomans of the six Embassies on the Sultan's accession day, we have instructed the Dragomans to offer the customary compliments, but, at the same time, to express our regrets at the painful events by which the twentieth year of His Majesty's reign has been characterized.

No. 160.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 373. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 31, 1896, 1·50 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador in Vienna telegraphs, with reference to recent events here, that the Austrian Emperor had expressed his sympathy with the Sultan; he also reports that the Czar, in conversation with him, had said that he had no sympathy with the Armenians, who had attempted similar deeds in the Caucasus, and that England was the only country which protected them.

No. 161.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 374. Very Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 31, 1896, 11·25 P.M.

MY telegram No. 365 of the 29th August.

I am informed by a high Mussulman functionary at the Porte that the threats made by Russian Ambassador to Minister for Foreign Affairs have made the Sultan furious, and that His Majesty is beginning to think that he is mistaken in putting so much confidence in Russia. This opinion of His Majesty has been strengthened by a Report which Tewfik Pasha drew up yesterday to the effect that his Excellency is convinced, owing to the violent language held by M. Nélidow and his Military Attaché, that the present disturbances are being fomented by them in order to afford a pretext for the intervention of Russia.

I have no doubt that the justifiable indignation felt by the Russian Ambassador at the sights he has witnessed explains the violence of his language, but it must be admitted that the Russians have a splendid opportunity at the present moment of making a *coup de main* on Constantinople.

No. 162.

The Sublime Porte to Anthopoulo Pasha.—(*Communicated by Anthopoulo Pasha September* 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Sublime Porte, le* 29 *Août*, 1896.

POUR faire suite à mes télégrammes en date du 27 et du 28 de ce mois, je viens vous informer qu'hier, au moment où les troupes revenant du Selamlik passaient devant Galata Sérai, une bombe a été jetée du haut d'une maison sise sur le parcours, mais bien que l'engin ait fait explosion, il n'y a eu heureusement aucune victime. Deux Arméniens réfugiés de la dite maison ont été arrêtés et livrés à la justice; en outre une perquisition opérée à l'école des filles de Psamatia a amené la découverte dans l'armoire de la maîtresse de l'école, Aghavni, de trente-six bombes de sept capsules des boîtes de cartouches de revolver et d'un paquet de capsules de dynamite. Le nombre des soldats et agents de l'autorité tués ou blessés par les révolutionnaires pendant les désordres de ces derniers jours est considérable; plus d'une trentaine ont été transportés à l'hôpital militaire de Gumushsouyou et beaucoup d'autres distribués dans les différents établissements hospitaliers de la capitale pour y être soignés.

No. 163.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 375.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 1, 1896, 10·15 A.M.

SULTAN'S accession day passed off without the occurrence of any further incidents of importance, but a state of panic still prevails in Constantinople, and business will, I fear, remain for some time at a standstill. Further bomb throwing on the part of the Armenians may still be a source of danger.

No. 164.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 377.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 2, 1896, 1·40 P.M.

IT seems certain that the Government organized and armed, for the purpose of killing Armenians, the mob which committed all the massacres on Wednesday and Thursday. It was only on Thursday evening that the Sultan sent orders to stop the mob, when they were instantly obeyed.

A collective note on the subject was addressed yesterday to the Porte by the six Representatives, mentioning proofs in our possession.

Sultan sent me a message on Sunday, in which His Majesty stated that he had failed, in the first instance, to realize how grave the situation was, and that this is why the troops had not received orders sooner. Great importance attaches to this admission, as the other Representatives and myself had been informed by the Palace and Porte officials that, directly the attack on the Bank took place, all the necessary orders were given for the preservation of order.

From 5,000 to 6,000 is a moderate estimate of number of Armenians who were killed.

No. 165.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 378.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 2, 1896, 4 25 P.M.

MR. BELFONTE telegraphs from Alexandretta that anxiety prevails at Beylan, and that the attitude of the Turkish population towards the Christians there has become more threatening.

No. 166.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 3.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et, pour faire suite à ses précédentes communications relatives aux désordres Arméniens, a l'honneur de lui communiquer le télégramme suivant, qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement:—

"Les autorités Impériales ont remis aux Procureurs-Généraux près les Tribunaux compétents, les dossiers d'Ardach, fils d'Artin, qui avait été arrêté pour avoir tiré des coups de feu et jeté des bombes sur les troupes Impériales et les Agents de Police, et dans la maison duquel on a découvert six revolvers et sept bombes; d'Artin, fils d'Agop, employé chez le dit Ardach; de Nichan, fils de Mikael, gardien du magasin d'un certain Cléanthi, qui avait fait feu sur les officiers de l'armée Impériale; d'Agop, fils d'Artin, arrêté par suite de ses allures suspectes; de Mehemmed-bin-Mehemmed, de Chiro, prévenu d'avoir tué Alexan et Agop et blessé Boghos, marchand de tabac; de Kurde Ali, dénoncé comme ayant blessé Manouk, fils de Mardirus, marchand de tabac; d'Ibrahim et de seize individus originaires de Rizé, qui s'étaient attroupés pour commettre des méfaits; de l'ouvrier Halid et de ses neuf compagnons; de Hamid; de Mo, de Mouch, prévenu d'avoir tué Artin, marchand de clous; ainsi que de prévenus du meurtre du prêtre Vartanez et des femmes Sophie et Biridjik; onze individus, arrêtés sous la prévention d'avoir pris part aux désordres, ont été déjà soumis à un interrogatoire et quatorze témoins entendus hier.

"Les Anarchistes Arméniens ont jeté encore Samedi des bombes sur les troupes Impériales qui passaient par Galata; un officier et quelques soldats furent tués."

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 3 *Septembre*, 1896.

No. 167.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 3.)

(No. 379.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 3, 1896, 2·50 P.M.

WITH the exception of five men who are guarding the Consulate, where there are a good many Armenian refugees, all the sailors and marines who were landed have now re-embarked.

No. 168.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 3.)

(No. 380.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 3, 1896, 2·55 P.M.

URGENT representations were made yesterday by the Representatives of the Six Powers, warning the Porte of the consequences which would follow if the massacres at Constantinople were repeated in the provinces.

I believe that this is the first time in which Armenians in the provinces have formed the subject of united representations by all the Six Powers.

No. 169.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 3.)

(No. 381.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 3, 1896, 9·40 P.M.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that the Armenians contemplated two fresh plots this week, one involving a demonstration at Yildiz, but they were frustrated by the police.

Some more bombs were thrown in the Armenian quarter in Stamboul to-day; a panic also took place in Galata.

All is now quiet again.

No. 170.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 384.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 4, 1896, 7·45 P.M.*

THE ex-Patriarch Ismirlian left to-day for Jerusalem, nominally on a pilgrimage. The Sultan had insisted on his Beatitude's departure from Constantinople.

No. 171.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 5.)

Sir, *Downing Street, September 5, 1896.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to the letter from this Department of the 4th March last, a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada, inclosing a Minute of the Canadian Privy Council, with its inclosures, relative to the suggested establishment of an Armenian Colony in Canada.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir, *Government House, Ottawa, August 21, 1896.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 3rd March last, relative to the suggested establishment of an Armenian Colony in Canada, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of an approved Minute of the Privy Council dealing with the subject.

You will observe that, in view of the difference between the climate and conditions of life prevailing in Canada and in Armenia, my Ministers express grave doubts of the expediency of encouraging the proposed emigration, while it is pointed out that there are no funds at the disposal of the Government to permit of any expense being incurred in this connection, other than is usual in the case of ordinary settlers.

Copies of maps and printed documents furnishing information in regard to public lands open for settlement are attached to the Minute in Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor-General on the 14th August, 1896.

THE Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a despatch, hereto attached, dated the 3rd March, 1896, from the Right Honourable Mr. Chamberlain, transmitting an extract from a letter from the Rev. R. Chambers, suggesting the establishment of an Armenian Colony in Canada.

The Acting Minister of the Interior, to whom the matter was referred, observed that there is nothing in any of the papers communicated by the Secretary of State to indicate whether or not the persons whom it is proposed to send out to Canada are in a position to make the journey, select lands, and commence farming operations without financial assistance.

The Acting Minister considers it desirable that the Rev. Mr. Chambers, who has interested himself in the subject, should be informed that while a mode of procedure is provided by the Dominion Lands Act, by which persons, who are desirous of assisting settlers to come to Canada, and establish themselves on homesteads, may obtain liens upon such homesteads as security for the money thus advanced, there is no appropriation at the disposal of the Government of Canada, out of which aid could be given

to any class of incoming settlers for the purposes indicated. The provisions of the law relating to advances to settlers by private individuals, or companies, are set out at section 44 of the Dominion Lands Act, a copy of which, consolidated for office purposes, is included in the collection of printed documents hereto attached.

The Minister also states that he entertains grave doubts, in view of the difference which exists between the climate and conditions of life in Canada, and those of their native country, whether it would be in the interests of the Armenians themselves, or in the interests of Canada, that inducements should be held out to them to emigrate to this country. In any event it would have to be clearly understood that there is no appropriation at the disposal of this Government, which would permit of any expense being incurred on their account, which does not attach to the case of ordinary settlers. It would also have to be established that, if the Armenians were placed upon homesteads, they would be self-sustaining, and would not be a burden upon the community.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Acting Minister of the Interior, advise that your Excellency be moved to forward the printed information, hereto attached, relating to the public lands in Manitoba and the north-west territories, and in the railway belt in British Columbia, together with the accompanying maps, to the Right Honourable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the information and guidance ofthe Rev. Mr. Chambers.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN J. McGEE,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

Inclosure 3 in No. 171.

Mr. Chamberlain to the Earl of Aberdeen.

My Lord, *Downing Street, March 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for the consideration of your Ministers, a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, forwarding an extract from a letter from the Rev. R. Chambers, in which he suggests the establishment of an Armenian Colony in Canada.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 171.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 27, 1896.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit herewith, for the information of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, an extract from a letter which has been addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople by the Rev. R. Chambers, a missionary residing at Baghchejik Ismidt, making suggestions for the establishment of an Armenian Colony in Canada.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 171.

The Rev. R. Chambers to Sir P. Currie.

(Extract.) *Baghchejik Ismidt, January 28, 1896.*

SOME years ago I proposed the establishment of an Armenian Colony in the Canadian north-west. The proposal was well received in Canada, but the time was not propitious. Perhaps the time has come to revive the proposition. If a scheme could be perfected for the establishment of such colony in the Sash-al-Chawan district, and in British Columbia, I am sure it would result in great mutual benefit and blessing.

No. 172.

Sir H. Wyndham to the Marquess of Salisbury.—Received September 5.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Sinaia, September 5, 1896, 5 P.M.*

M. STURDZA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has protested to me against British steam-ships bringing Armenians or persons of other nationalities who are discontented with Turkish rule from Constantinople to Roumania. He has at the same time requested me to endeavour to prevent their arrival, as their disembarcation will be opposed, and to instruct Her Majesty's Consular officers to advise masters of British ships who have brought refugees to Roumanian ports to reship them on leaving.

The "Bernard" has clandestinely landed some refugees at Sulina, and has proceeded up the Danube. She will, I understand, be detained at the above port on her coming down the river unless she reships them.

M. Sturdza is indifferent to the impression this action on the part of his Government may create, his Excellency being determined to incur no risk of complications.

I have informed Sir Philip Currie of this.

No. 173.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 680 A.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 27, 1896.*

IN accordance with your Lordship's telegram No. 177 of the 22nd August, I caused the substance of your answer to Anthopoulo Pasha concerning the proposed commutation of the Loan of 1855 to be communicated to Izzet Bey, the Sultan's Second Secretary. Izzet Bey said that the Armenian question was settled, and that he could not understand why your Lordship still seemed to regard it as pending. He added confidentially that the Sultan was contemplating the grant of an amnesty to certain classes of Armenian prisoners, and that the provincial authorities had been instructed to furnish lists of the persons deserving His Highness' pardon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 174.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 682. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 27, 1896.*

YESTERDAY the Ottoman Bank in Galata was captured, and held for more than twelve hours by a band of armed Armenians.

In order that your Lordship may be better able to follow this extraordinary story, I should explain that the Ottoman Bank is somewhat similar in construction to Her Majesty's Embassy here, that is to say, it consists of a central covered court, lighted from the roof, and surrounded by a two-storied building. The central court is the common office of the inferior employés, who cash cheques and perform the other current business of the Bank, while the superior officials have private rooms on the higher floors, those of Sir E. Vincent being on the top storey. The building is isolated on three sides, but is joined to the Tobacco Régie on the fourth.

The capture was effected at about 1·15 P.M., which was probably selected as the luncheon hour. Two of the leaders entered first, and presented themselves, one at the gold and the other at the silver cash counter, ostensibly in order to change money. Having assured themselves that the moment was propitious, they returned to the entrance and gave a signal, on which four more of the band entered dressed as porters, and carrying on their backs sacks resembling those used here for transporting silver, but really containing bombs, dynamite, and ammunition. The instant these were safely in, a whistle was blown, and a rush made from the neighbouring streets.

Two of the Bank porters were killed and two wounded, but the head porter, who grasped the situation in an instant, pretended to be dead, and after allowing the

conspirators to rush over his prostrate form, rose and shot two of them in the back. The total number of those who entered the Bank was twenty-five, but there were perhaps others outside who were too late to get in. Then began a regular fusillade, the Armenians throwing bombs and firing both through the windows and inside the Bank.

Sir Edgar Vincent who perceived that decisive action was necessary, dexterously mounted on to the roof through a skylight, followed by Mr. Reeves, the Vice-Director, and thence descended into the adjoining buildings of the Tobacco Régie, but the other employés had no other alternative but to submit to the Armenians, who closed all the exits of the Bank, and barricaded the main doors with sacks of silver coin. Firing and bomb-throwing, chiefly at the police through the windows, continued for about an hour until the Bank employés, as well as the police and troops, realized the position, namely, that it was useless to try and recapture the Bank by force, because it was held by a band of desperadoes armed with dynamite, and prepared to blow up the building rather than retire. The police and troops withdrew about 3 P.M., and the streets around were left absolutely deserted.

This was a great relief to the Bank clerks, as their Turkish defenders had in an excess of zeal shot at every one who showed his face at the window. After two employés had been killed in this way, the clerks in the central court fell down flat and remained prostrate or crouching on all fours for about two hours. The first paroxysm of fear over, the Bank employés began to communicate with the invaders, with whom they established excellent social relations. The latter explained that their object was to attract the attention of the Powers; they intended to hold the Bank for forty-eight hours. If in that time the Ambassadors did not guarantee their demands for certain political reforms, they would blow up the Bank with themselves and everybody in it.

The exact nature of these demands will best be seen by reading the inclosed letters sent by the Revolutionary Committee to the Embassies, the first the day before the occurrence, the second dated nominally, though doubtless not really, from the Bank after its capture. A third letter addressed only to the French Chargé d'Affaires was sent after the surrender of the Bank, so that it is to be feared that the writer is still at large.

It was agreed between the Bank employés and their captors that M. Anboyneau, the adjoint of Sir E. Vincent, should be sent to explain the situation to him after giving his word of honour to return, which he did. Sir E. Vincent went first to the Council of Ministers which was sitting at the Palace, but concurred in the opinion which they expressed that if he wanted to save his Bank from destruction, his only course was to treat with the invaders, in conjunction with some Representative of a foreign Mission. He found M. Maximoff, the First Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, who happened to be at the Palace, and who took upon himself the responsibility for the whole negotiation without asking for instructions from M. de Nélidoff. After a prolonged discussion with the Ministers and the Sultan's Secretary, His Majesty's consent was obtained to offer to the Armenians in the Bank a free pardon and permission to leave the country unmolested, these terms being guaranteed by M. Maximoff on behalf of the Russian Embassy, who at the same time expressed his conviction that the other Embassies would follow suit.

They then returned to the Bank and addressed from the street the Armenians who listened from the windows. M. Maximoff spoke with remarkable eloquence, and after about three hours parleying, the insurgent leaders reluctantly accepted the conditions proposed, stipulating also that they should be conducted on board Sir E. Vincent's yacht, that they should retain their arms, but not the other explosives, and that they should next day be visited by the Dragomans of the Embassies to discuss their demands. It would appear that the chief leader was killed in taking possession of the Bank, and that a difference of opinion arose among the two next in command, one of whom only yielded under protest, and concealed a bomb on his person when he left the building.

About 2·15 A.M. they evacuated the Bank, which was occupied by the troops, who found in it forty-five gunpowder bombs, twenty-five dynamite cartridges, and eleven kilog. of dynamite. These explosives had apparently been manufactured in the country.

Of the twenty-five men, fifteen went on board Sir E. Vincent's yacht, four were killed and six wounded, and the casualties of the Bank employés were exactly the same. Three of the Armenians were killed by the explosion of their own bombs, and lingered for some time in horrible agony. No attempt was made to take any money.

Thus ended somewhat tamely a most daring outrage, and perhaps the strangest problem which it presents is, why did the conspirators abandon their scheme and yield. No rational explanation of their conduct has been offered, and I can only suppose that hunger, fatigue, and suspense had unnerved men who had made a great effort, but were not naturally endowed with great physical courage.

It is said that when they entered the Bank they had empty stomachs, having been in hiding for some time, which perhaps accounts for their rapid collapse. Possibly they were also disheartened by the escape of Sir E. Vincent, and it is obvious that things might have taken a very different turn had he been in their hands.

They spent the night on board Sir E. Vincent's yacht, in the company of Mr. Barker, one of his Secretaries, who has made an interesting report of the account they gave him of their schemes and aspirations.

By the kindness of Sir E. Vincent, I am able to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of this document.

The English, Russian, and French Dragomans visited the insurgents on the yacht next day and endeavoured to persuade them of the criminal folly of their methods of action, but they merely replied that they were determined to come back to Turkey and begin again, and that others would carry on the work in their absence.

They were then disarmed and placed on the Messageries steamer "Gironde," which left for Smyrna, the Piræus, and Marseilles, but had orders not to let them disembark at the two former ports. After some bargaining as to the exact sum, Sir E. Vincent gave them each £T. 5.

I am confidentially informed by the French Chargé d'Affaires that M. Hanotaux was much annoyed at this circumstance, and telegraphed that he ought not to have allowed them to be dispatched on a French boat and to France.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 174.

The Armenian Revolutionary Committee to the Embassies.

Excellences, *Constantinople, le Août*, 1896.

IL ne suffit plus au Gouvernement Turc de faire massacrer nos frères en Arménie. Il vient encore en pleine capitale de porter brutalement atteinte à nos droits politiques.

L'élection de nos Patriarches en vertu de la Constitution Arménienne reconnue par la Porte se fait par un Conseil composé de laïques et de religieux lequel est élu par l'Assemblée Nationale Arménienne. Par le plus arbitraire des actes le Gouvernement Turc, après avoir par ses intrigues obligé le Patriarche Matteos Ismirlian à donner sa démission, a cassé le Conseil Mixte élu par notre dernière Assemblée et remplacé ce Conseil par quelques civils et prêtres vendus au Palais, auxquels il a enjoint d'élire comme *locum tenens* le Prélat le plus indigne de notre Église, Bartolomées, de qui les Turcs eux-mêmes ne parlent qu'avec mépris.

La nation Arménienne proteste hautement contre cette violation de ses droits constitutionnels, anciens et jusqu'ici respectés. Elle ne reconnaît ni Bartolomées ni les hommes indignes—par exemple Nourian et Abraham Pacha—qui lui sont imposés comme membres du Conseil. Cette fois le Gouvernement Turc joint l'insulte à la longue série de ses crimes impunis. Les Puissances par leur attitude se font les complices de la Porte. En Crète comme en Arménie elles accueillent les revendications des Chrétiens avec le même mépris que nos bourreaux. Mais la patience des nations écrasées a des limites.

Pour nous, nous ne souffrirons pas qu'un Prélat auquel on fermait naguère les portes des églises et chapelles Arméniennes donne aux peuples le spectacle d'aller au nom de la nation Arménienne baiser la main de celui qui a signé la mort de 100,000 de nos morts.

Encore une fois la colère Arménienne va se déchaîner et des actes par lesquels elle se traduira l'entière responsabilité retombera également sur le Sultan et sur les Représentants des Puissances.

(Le peuple Arménien.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 174.

The Armenian Revolutionary Committee to the Embassies.

NOUS avons sans cesse protesté à l'Europe contre la tyrannie Turque, mais nos protestations légitimes ont été systématiquement refusées.

Sultan Hamid nous a répondu avec une vengeance sanglante : L'Europe a vu cet effroyable crime et a gardé le silence. Non seulement l'Europe n'a pas arrêté la main du bourreau, mais encore elle nous a impudemment imposé la résignation.

On nous a insulté en nous refusant nos droits humains et l'on a ulcéré mortellement notre dignité nationale en s'efforçant d'etouffer dans notre propre sang nos cris de protestations.

A nos exigences consacrées par notre sang vient se joindre à l'heure qu'il est l'idée fixe de vengeance sacrée, dressée devant nous comme un fantôme noir.

"La force prime le droit," nous a dit l'Europe par son indifférence homicide et nous, les faibles, les privés des droits humains, nous nous voyons obligés de nous adresser à la science, en cherchant tous les moyens pour briser le joug abominable du Sultan ; nous ne pouvons plus le supporter.

Le temps des jeux diplomatique est passé.

Le sang versé par nos 100,000 martyrs nous donne le droit de demander la liberté. Malgré toutes les insinuations de nos ennemis, nous n'avons demandé et nous ne demanderons pas que le strict nécessaire.

A savoir :

1. Nomination pour l'Arménie d'un Haut Commissaire, d'origine et de nationalité Européenne élu par les Six Grandes Puissances.
2. Les Valis, Mutessarifs, et Caïmacans seront nommés par le Haut Commissaire et sanctionnés par le Sultan.
3. Organisations de milice, de gendarmerie, et de police des populations indigènes, sous le commandement des officiers Européens.
4. Réformes judiciaires d'après le système Européen.
5. Liberté absolue des cultes, d'instruction, et de la presse.
6. Destination des trois quarts du revenu du pays aux besoins locaux.
7. Extinction de tous les impôts arriérés.
8. Exemption d'impôts pendant cinq ans et destination, pendant les cinq ans suivants, de l'impôt payable au Gouvernement du Sultan au dédommagement de la perte causée par les derniers troubles.
9. Rétrocession immédiate des possessions immeubles usurpées.
10. Retour libre des émigrés Arméniens.
11. Amnestie générale pour les condamnés politiques Arméniens.
12. Nomination d'une Commission temporelle, formée par les Représentants des Grandes Puissances, laquelle s'établira dans une des villes principales de l'Arménie et surveillera à l'exécution des Articles susdits.

Voici nos demandes. Nous ne reculerons devant aucun sacrifice pour arriver à notre but. Nous nous reconnaissons désormais exempts de toute responsabilité. Nous pleurons d'avance la perte de tous ceux qui, étrangers ou indigènes, seront les victimes fatales à l'alarme générale. Nous les regrettons, mais devant le malheur général le deuil partiel n'a pas de sens.

Nous mourrons, nous le savons, mais la révolution qui a pénetré jusque dans les os de la nation Arménienne, continuera à menacer le trône des Sultans, tant que nous n'aurons pas conquis nos droits humains, tant qu'il restera un seul Arménien.

(Le Comité Central de Constantinople de la Fédération des Révolutionnaires Arméniens dite "Dachnaktzoutioun.")

Inclosure 3 in No. 174.

The Armenian Revolutionary Committee to the French Chargé d'Affaires.

NOUS ne sortirons pas d'ici avant deux jours.

Nos exigences sont : —

1. Assurer la paix partout dans le pays par l'intervention internationale.
2. Accepter les demandes représentées par le Comité Central de Constantinople de la Fédération Révolutionnaire Arménienne dite "Dachnaktzoutioun."

3. Ne pas se servir de force contre nous.

4. Garantie complète de la vie de tous ceux qui se trouvent ici dans la Banque, et de ceux qui ont pris part aux troubles de la ville.

Le mobilier et le numéraire de la Banque seront intact jusqu'à l'exécution de nos demandes; dans le cas contraire, le numéraire et tous les papiers d'affaires seront détruits, et nous autres, avec le personnel, trouverons la mort sous les ruines de la Banque.

Nous sommes obligés de prendre ces mesures extrêmes.

C'est l'indifférence criminelle de l'humanité qui nous a poussé jusqu'à ce point.

(Les représentants du Comité Central de Constantinople de la Fédération Révolutionnaire Arménienne dite "Dachnaktzoutioun.")

(5 signatures Arméniennes.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 174.

Report by Mr. Barker.

FROM what I could gather from my conversation with the seventeen men sent on board the "Gulnare," the events of the 20th were schemed and planned out some three months ago by the Foreign Committees, and the chiefs of the various bands only came to Constantinople some three weeks back. The attack on the Bank was one part of their programme, as they told me that the following points and places had been singled out for their demonstrations:—

The Sublime Porte (in Stamboul).
The Armenian Patriarchate.
That part of Stamboul sloping down towards Macri-keui.

In Galata their attacks were to be directed against—

The Imperial Ottoman Bank (occupation).
The Crédit Lyonnais (occupation).
The Vaivoda police-station (bomb attacks).

In Pera:

The Galata Serai police-station (bomb attack).
The Ain Triada Greek church (bomb attack).

These were to be accompanied by bomb-throwing amongst the police, where necessary, to confuse them, and draw attention from the places which they wished to occupy.

I gathered that great care had been taken in the organization; that the Turks had rightly suspected, three days before, that something was on the point of happening, but that they thought that the Patriarchate alone would have been attacked—this, apparently, is the reason that the attempt on the latter place was unsuccessful; that their bombs were made by them here, and that the explosives used were not so violent as they might be; that they had obtained their dynamite here, and that there was no more difficulty about this than for the men themselves to get into the country.

The Bank was attacked at 1, and at the same time a raid was made on the Vaivoda police-station in order to prevent assistance being sent to the Bank by the latter.

They gave me the following reasons for having singled out the Imperial Ottoman Bank and Crédit Lyonnais for occupation:—

(*a.*) As these establishments contain people of so many nationalities, all the Powers would be ready to assist in obtaining their demands from the Turks, in order to save the lives of their subjects.

(*b.*) That the Bank was the easiest building to resist a siege and to defend.

(*c.*) That apart from the interest of the European Powers, the various financial markets would also have suffered heavy loss through the destruction of property and of all the money in the Bank had they used their dynamite.

(*d.*) That being the most prominent building in the town, more attention would be attracted to their attempts to bring the Armenian cause before the lower classes, and thus instil more ardour in their weaker brethren, who were, for the moment, holding aloof from fear of the Turks.

Their reason for making more use of bombs for their defence, and also for their attacks on the military, were that, besides being more destructive, they caused more consternation, owing to the novelty of the thing.

The men told me that they did not belong to any one particular Secret Society; that they were simply striving to save their fellow-countrymen from oppression and wrong, and that, like them, there were hundreds who would be willing to lose their lives in this attempt; that it had been agreed that not one of them should fall into the hands of the Turks alive, and that, if necessary, they should die by their own hands.

I asked them if they had any particular reason for singling out Wednesday, to which they replied that it was the day of the Council of Ministers, and that the Galata part of the town being freer from crowds their action would be less likely to be opposed.

The assailants were all Turkish subjects, and, with the exception of the three chiefs, of the "hamal" or porter class.

These men seemed to depreciate the working system of the Hornitchak (? Hinchag), which was only a sort of ransom-earning Company, and had not the political cause of the Armenians at heart. Nor were they ready to die for their country.

One of the chiefs was killed, and all the other three corroborated what each told me as above.

Two of the chiefs were not Armenians from Constantinople, but from Van, and of superior education, knowing Russian, French, Turkish, and Greek.

The third had evidently lived a long time here, and knew the place well. They were all most determined men, and repeatedly told me that they would not give themselves up, but were most anxious as to how far their ultimatum to the Turks would be successful. For free pardon they did not care, except inasmuch as if not obtaining the reforms they asked for they would be alive for a new attempt, which they declared would be more terrible than anything known yet.

What they wanted was the English project of reforms, and to this they had added:—

"Freedom of the press in the new Armenian province." Autonomy they would have, and if they did not get it now they would get it at some future date.

When I remarked that I thought that the initiative they had taken would alienate the sympathy of the Powers and cause a fearful massacre of Armenians, they replied, "Those who die will do so as true patriots and martyrs, and as to the sympathy of the Powers, if we had thought we would lose it, we would have forced their hands by remaining in the Bank."

Their hatred of the Turks was beyond all description, and the gloating of the rank and file over the Turks they had killed was truly horrible and savage. They declared that they would return here through Macedonia, and were confident of success in their next demonstration. They were very anxious to know whether their fellow men had done much damage with their bombs, whether many soldiers had been killed, and whether the soldiers had been firing on the Armenians. They also told me that it had been their intention to kill all the Turks in the employ of the Bank before blowing the latter up, but that they had not had time to do so, as things finished sooner than they expected.

From their repeated questions about the Piræus, and whether they would be allowed to go there, &c., I presume that the most important seat of the Committee is somewhere in Greece, and probably on the Macedonian frontier.

(Signed) F. A. BARKER.

August 26, 1896.

No. 175.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 683.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 29, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 66, Commercial, of the 11th August, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship correspondence respecting the state of the Hedjaz, and would call your special attention to Mr. Alban's excellent and able Report on the general situation there (Mr. Alban's No. 81 of the 3rd August).

In the present disturbed condition of Constantinople it will probably be impossible

for some time to devote to this question the attention it deserves, but I venture to express the opinion that it is useless to argue with the Sublime Porte respecting the treatment of pilgrims, and beg leave to call your attention to the last paragraph of Sir Philip Currie's *note verbale* of the 27th March, copy of which was inclosed in his Excellency's despatch No. 25, Commercial, of the 19th April last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 175.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Jeddah, July* 27, 1896.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 4th instant, inclosing a copy of a *note verbale* received from the Sublime Porte, which contains the Vali's reply to the complaint of Her Majesty's Embassy respecting the extortionate rate charged to Indian and Malay pilgrims for camel hire to Medina and back, I have the honour to make the following observations:—

For the first part of the Vali's explanation, I was quite prepared, his Excellency having made use of the same arguments to me previously—that the rate was fixed by the Council of Administration is merely tantamount to saying that it was fixed by the Vali and Shereef, for it is a matter of public notoriety that all the members of that Council are entirely under the control of one or the other of these two personages, while the Vali himself presides over the meeting. As for the Commission of Inspection, it is perfectly well known that they received hush-money from the shares of the Vali and Shereef. I mentioned in my despatch of the 20th April, 1896, that Hassan Edib Pasha, the head of the Commission, was himself notorious for his extortion and dishonesty when Governor-General of the Yemen. I will relate a story respecting him, which is universally current in the Yemen and the Hedjaz. He received on one occasion a considerable sum of money from Constantinople for the pacification of certain tribes which were in revolt. He set out from Hodeidah for the ostensible purpose of distributing this money among the disaffected tribes, and afterwards returned stating that this had been done, and that peace was re-established. As a matter of fact, he had never visited the tribes or distributed the money, and in a short time the revolt became more threatening than ever.

A gentleman of some position here, who, having business with the Vali, was present at the meeting of the Council of Administration when the camel hire for the first Medina caravan was fixed, informed me that the proceedings were a farce, and that all the details had been obviously arranged beforehand. Some of the Mokharrijin (camel brokers) and Mokawwams (caravan guides) were present and began by asking absurd prices. After some bargaining, they said that, "to oblige the Vali," they would accept 25 medjidiés. The Commission loudly expressed its satisfaction at this moderate rate, and asked the opinion of Hassan Edib Pasha, who said that he considered that it was remarkably cheap. After the meeting my informant (who is not in any way personally interested in the matter) told Hassan Edib Pasha that, so far from being moderate, the rate fixed was extortionate in the extreme, and that the scene at the meeting was a farce played to impose upon him. Hassan Edib Pasha, however, warmly insisted that the rate was very moderate, and my informant had then no further doubt as to his complicity in the matter.

The Vali's statement that "all the pilgrims declared themselves satisfied" is absolutely incorrect. British pilgrims, if they have complaints, make them to this Consulate, which is their natural protector, and not to the local authorities, of whom, and with reason, they stand in extreme dread. So great is their apprehension, and so strong is the opposition of the guides (who are punished if one of their pilgrims complains to me), that they seldom venture to communicate with this Consulate until they arrive in Jeddah, and are on the eve of embarking for India. It is hardly likely, therefore, that they will complain to the very authorities who are extorting money from them and of whose persecution they stand in so great apprehension. As a matter of fact, many Indian pilgrims complained here of the excessive rates of camel hire, and were perfectly well aware of the amounts received by the Grand Shereef and Vali from that source.

I read with some satisfaction the last portion of the Vali's explanation, in which it is stated that "from the sums in question 5 medjidiés only are taken, to be handed over, according to custom, to the persons who act as guides to the pilgrims, or who provide

for their needs." The Vali for the first time abandons his favourite policy of intrenching himself behind a simple denial of well-established facts, and admits that the whole amount is not received by the camel owners. In my despatch of the 11th June last I stated that, out of the 25 medjidiés charged for the first caravan, 16 medjidiés were paid to the camel owners, leaving a balance of 9 medjidics. Of this balance, 2 medjidies were taken for the Government pass. This being a Government charge, the Vali was naturally not called upon to explain it. There remained, therefore, a balance of 7 medjidiés to be accounted for. Of this amount 2 medjidiés were, it is now well known, taken by the Vali, while of the remaining 5 medjidiés 3 medjidiés were received by the Shereef, the other 2 medjidiés being divided among the Mokharrij, the Mokawwam, and others. The Vali has now admitted the 5 medjidiés received by the Grand Shereef and others, leaving only the 2 medjidiés, which form his own share, to be accounted for. This curious oversight may perhaps be due to the fact that his modesty, or possibly his sense of truth, would not permit him to describe himself as having in any way "provided for the needs of the pilgrims."

In conclusion, I have the honour to state that no such custom exists as that referred to by the Vali, nor has it ever been recognized by this Consulate in any way; on the contrary, attempts to commit similar exactions have occasioned frequently, if not annually recurring, conflicts between this Consulate and the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 175.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Jeddah, August* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to state that the condition of the Hedjaz, which has never during the rule of the present Grand Shereef been satisfactory, has become gradually worse, and the abuses, which have year by year been renewed, and with complaints of which the archives of this Consulate teem, have become gradually more accentuated and more systematically organized. The various Turkish Valis who have succeeded one another at brief intervals have but rarely attempted to check, and have generally increased by their demands for the price of their complicity, the extortion and corruption from which all classes suffer. The few Valis who have attempted to restrain the Grand Shereef have speedily been dismissed through the powerful influence which his Highness possesses at the Palace of Yildiz and with the Sultan himself. When the Vali is also corrupt the state of things here is without a parallel in other vilayets, for in place of one there are two Chiefs of the province, each with his followers, whose demands must be satisfied.

Public opinion may be divided as to the relative merits and demerits of previous Valis, but it is unanimous in describing Ahmed Ratib Pasha as the worst and the most corrupt Governor-General that the Hedjaz has known during the last twenty years at least. His two periods of office have been marked by exceptional extortion and corruption. I do not go so far as to say that Ratib Pasha could in any case, notwithstanding his Palace influence, effectually check the Grand Shereef's extortion, but, so far from attempting to do so, he encourages and shares in his Highness' exactions. Not only is Ratib Pasha thoroughly corrupt, but his administrative incapacity and his neglect of official business are only too apparent. In servility of manner towards the Grand Shereef he surpasses former Valis, and his want of dignity in this respect excites much comment here, where he is often called "the servant of the Shereef." His lack of self-respect is further evidenced by the shameless effrontery with which (other modes of defence being beyond his intelligence) he denies facts which are well known to everybody and which the Grand Shereef himself hardly takes the trouble to conceal.

Behind the Grand Shereef are two unprincipled persons who, having great influence with his Highness, practically rule the country through him. The names of Omar Nasseef Effendi and Mohammed Ali Effendi are seldom mentioned here except with hatred or apprehension. The former, who is of low origin, has, as the agent at Jeddah of the Grand Shereef, whom he can always bend to his purpose, constituted himself the tyrant of the province. He owns a very large portion of Jeddah, and there is hardly a speculation or undertaking in which he is not interested. To oppose him is to invite a thousand annoyances, for he is very vindictive, and no redress can be obtained against him. He has considerable authority over the Bedouins, although he is most unpopular

with them. He is a man of coarse and overbearing manners, extremely cunning, and most unscrupulous.

Mohammed Ali Effendi is not a man of the same force of will or so striking a personality as Omar Nasseef, to whom intellectually he is superior. He is of Egyptian origin, and speaks Hindustani and other Oriental languages with facility. He is the private Secretary of the Grand Shereef, with whom he resides at Mecca, and by corrupt means has acquired a considerable fortune. He has unbounded influence in Mecca, as nothing can be obtained from the Grand Shereef unless Mohammed Ali's support has first been secured.

These two men are the principal among the evil counsellors of the Grand Shereef, and no reforms can ever be hoped for as long as they remain in power. Omar Nasseef was on one occasion exiled to Constantinople, but was, unhappily for the Hedjaz, subsequently allowed to return.

The Vali has also his following among the Turkish officials. In Mecca the latter are mere cyphers acting under the orders of Vali and Shereef on every point. In Jeddah, they have a somewhat freer hand, but the Vali controls them through Rear-Admiral Sami Pasha, Commander of the Red Sea Naval Division. This man is an old friend of Ratib Pasha, to whom he stands in much the same relation here as Omar Nasseef does to the Grand Sheerif. He has acted as Kaïmakam on more than one occasion, and is a corrupt intriguer. His scandalous proceedings this year in connection with the pilgrim traffic of the Mahsussé steamers earned him the nickname of the "chief broker." Under his leadership is a clique consisting of the principal officials here, among them the President of the Tejarat Court and the Sanitary Inspector. The late Director of Customs, whose successor is expected to-day, was also one of this clique, who work together in their own interest and that of the Vali, under the direction of Sami Pasha and Omar Nasseef.

And here I must with unfeigned regret report the departure for Constantinople on the 11th ultimo of the Kaïmakam Omar Ali Bey. His departure was ostensibly on sick leave, he having been for some time in very weak health, but it appeared from his own remarks that he will not return, and I have reason to believe that the Vali and Sami Pasha had intrigued to obtain his removal. The late Kaïmakam was the only official here with whom the relations of myself and my colleagues were really satisfactory, and we all regarded him as a personal friend. He has had a long official experience, and, unlike the Vali, understands how official business should be treated. He is a man of unusual integrity, courteous, humane, and conscientious in the performance of his duties. He thoroughly disapproved of the proceedings of the Vali and Grand Shereef, and often privately denounced their extortions in the matter of camel hire and other charges. He was constantly opposed here by Sami Pasha and his clique, which he made every effort to break up.

He told me on one occasion that it would be a great boon to Jeddah if Sami Pasha were removed. The latter has been recalled and his successor is expected to-day, but the Vali will probably still make an effort to keep him here. Omar Ali Bey, who, I believe, is protected by the Grand Vizier, would, I doubt not, have made many improvements had he remained here, although, as he said, he could not rely upon the assistance of a single official here. The Vali has now appointed as acting Kaïmakam Brigadier-General Ismail Shukry Pasha. The latter, who studied at the military college of St. Cyr, and who speaks French, appears to be cautious and conciliatory, but is unacquainted with official routine, and is entirely under the influence of the Vali. This is much to be regretted, for now the only check on the other officials here is removed, and already signs of a change for the worse are not wanting.

In this Report there is no necessity for me to dwell upon the personality of the Grand Shereef. His character is well known to you from the numerous reports of Dr. Abdur Razzack and other Consular officers. Suffice it now to say that his faults increase with time, and that he has become so hardened in his pursuit of gain that he throws to the winds all considerations of prudence and humanity. The wires may be pulled by Omar Nasseef or by Mohammed Ali, but whatever influence may be in the ascendancy, extortion and injustice have become so habitual to him that no radical improvement can be expected so long as he continues to rule the Hedjaz. Commissions of inspection come and go, but all they do is to receive from the Shereef their share of the plunder, and present on their return a glowing report on the satisfactory condition of the Hedjaz which they know will please the Sultan. To show how little the Shereef cares to conceal his venality and corruption, I will refer briefly to his very characteristic interview with Vice-Consul Mohammad Hussein in Mecca.

Being unable to converse with the latter, who is not yet well acquainted with Arabic,

the Grand Shereef called for Mohammed Ali Effendi, adding facetiously "God's curse be upon him." After some conversation on general topics, the Grand Shereef said that Dr. Abdur Razzack had given him much trouble, "especially towards the end," and he hoped that this would not be the case with Dr. Mohammad. The latter very properly replied that if there were causes for complaint he feared that he too would have to trouble His Highness. The Shereef then said that it would be much better for Dr. Mohammad to make an "arrangement" with him "like the Persian Consul-General," and suggested that he should talk the matter over with Omar Nasseef Effendi, "who was a discreet man." When Dr. Mohammad left, the Grand Shereef sent Omar Nasseef after him, apparently forgetting that the Doctor could not speak Arabic, and that conversation between them was impossible.

I cannot disguise the fact that the events of the last two or three years have greatly increased the power, though not the popularity, of the Grand Shereef. It had been hoped that his outrageous extortion in 1893 and 1894 would lead at last to his removal, but he safely weathered the storm. Then came the murder of Dr. Abdur Razzack, the only Consular officer who had ever effectively opposed him, and the wounding of the British Consul, the Russian Acting Consul, and the French Chancellier, who were with him at the time. I have previously reported my conviction that the Grand Shereef was seriously compromised in the matter, and the longer I stay here the more I am disposed to believe in the correctness of the opinion, entertained by every British Indian here, and by many of the natives, that Dr. Abdur Razzack's death was due to his opposition to the extortion of the Shereef and his clique, and that neither the quarantine doctors nor anybody else were the real objects of the crime, the intended victim being Dr. Abdur Razzack.

In connection with this, the remark of the Grand Shereef to Dr. Mohammad Hussein, which I have quoted above, that Dr. Abdur Razzack gave him much trouble, "especially towards the end," is significant, especially when he added somewhat meaningly, "but it did not hurt me." The tone and manner in which these and other remarks respecting Dr. Abdur Razzack were made by the Grand Shereef, caused Dr. Mohammad, whose recent arrival rendered him unprejudiced, regard them as almost an admission of his complicity. The murder of Abdur Razzack, which was immediately followed by the appearance of British and French men-of-war, again raised hopes that now at last the Grand Shereef would be removed, and His Highness himself was for a time much perturbed. When it was finally realized that the assassins would never be arrested, and that no other local satisfaction would be demanded, while the Grand Shereef tranquilly recommenced his exactions from the pilgrims, the conviction gained ground that his influence with the Sultan was so strong as to render him unassailable, whatever complaints might be made by foreign Governments, and his power here has consequently become even greater than before.

The return of the present Vali was also a direct rebuff to the European Consuls here, who only a year before had unanimously asked for his dismissal.

The above remarks will, I venture to think, show that the cause of the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in the Hedjaz is the unscrupulous conduct of the Grand Shereef and Vali and their respective cliques, and that it will be impossible to protect the pilgrims from extortion or insure the better government of the country, unless one or both of the rulers of the province are removed, and their cliques broken up. It may truly be said that the country (I include the majority of the Bedouins of the Hedjaz) is groaning under the tyranny of the present régime. In Mecca particularly no official (or Tribunal) dares to do justice unless he is sure of the consent of the Vali and Shereef, while the latter's influence is brought to bear even in the most seemingly insignificant matters when he or one of his following have been bribed.

The Bedouins are regularly defrauded by the Grand Shereef and Omar Nasseef of a large portion of the allowance of grain which the Turkish Government grants them. It is not surprising, therefore, that in their wretched poverty, they should be driven to commit robberies on the Mecca road. Of late several caravans have been plundered, and British Indian merchants have been among the sufferers, and yet the troops stationed along the road, in accordance with the usual Turkish policy, have orders not to fire on the marauders. Besides extortion and insecurity, the other normal evils of Turkish rule are conspicuous. The Treasury is empty, the majority of officials and even the Vali himself have not received their salaries for some time, and money cannot be obtained, even for the most pressing necessities, the usual draft on the Beyrout Custom-house not having been paid this year. The troops are the greater sufferers. Their numbers have been greatly increased this year, as I have previously reported, but their is no money to pay them. Unpaid, half-starved, brought here from cold climates, quartered in many cases in single tents under a burning sun, clothed in a thick uniform intended for a cold

climate, it is not a matter for surprise that the poor wretches should die like sheep or that they should occasionally, as was recently the case, mutiny and demand repatriation and the payment of their arrears of pay.

Before leaving this post I have thought it my duty to lay before you the above observations, brief and inadequate, but by no means exaggerated, on the condition of the Hedjaz, in the hope that a means may be found of ameliorating it by the gradual removal of those directly responsible for the corruption and injustice which are so rampant.

The Vali, who had made an unusually long stay here, returned to Mecca on the

It was rumoured that his prolonged sojourn in Jeddah was due to orders from the Sublime Porte, forbidding him and the Grand Shereef to go to Taif, whither they usually proceed after the pilgrimage. It is now said that they will shortly leave for that place. Rumours have been rife here as to the approaching dismissal of the Vali and even of the possible removal of the Grand Shereef, but these seem to have little real foundation, and have been so frequently current that I have little confidence in their correctness.

Seyyid Ahmed Ibrahim, son of Seyyid Ahmed Assad, arrived here on the 31st ultimo from Constantinople, doubtless on a secret mission from the Palace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 175.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

Jeddah, August 5, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to observe that the complaint now made against Said Effendi Bajseir by the Sublime Porte is as unfounded as were the charges preferred against him in 1893, which were, no doubt, also based on information supplied by the present Governor-General.

The allegation now made is that certain representations, which I have recently felt it my duty to make on the subject of extortions from pilgrims, were based on false information supplied by Said Effendi Bajseir, the Dragoman of this Consulate. I have the honour to submit that this statement is entirely unfounded. The circumstances which I reported to you were well established, and the main facts were, as must necessarily be the case in such matters in the Hedjaz, known to many pilgrims and most of the residents in Mecca and Jeddah. My information on the subject was obtained not from one person, but from various reliable sources which it would not be advisable to specify. I would also point out that another Consulate—which, next to this, has the largest contingent of pilgrims—acting on information derived from entirely different sources, made similar complaints as to the extortion which prevailed this year. I inclose a brief confidential Report on the subject by Dr. Mohammad Hussein, who during his stay in Mecca was able to satisfy himself by independent inquiry that my Reports were by no means exaggerated.

I have the honour to add that the relations between Said Effendi Bajseir and the local authorities are marked by cordiality, and that he has always in his dealings with them shown much tact and conciliation. The Vali has doubtless founded the present charge on the misrepresentations of persons who are anxious to minimize the weight of my complaints by suggesting that they are due to incorrect information supplied by a single individual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 175.

Vice-Consul Dr. Hussein to Acting Consul Alban.

(Confidential.)

Jeddah, August 3, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to the despatch of the 17th ultimo from Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople regarding the information of the extortionate camel-hire rate of this year, I have the honour to state that over and over it has been brought to my notice

by the various people of this place and of Mecca that the camel hire from Jeddah to Mecca was extraordinarily high this year during the pilgrimage season. The cause of it, as it is no secret here, was the illegal demands of certain influential people of this place. It is well known throughout the country that the camel-men have this year been getting the same amount that they were usually getting before, and the balance, as shown below, was distributed to satisfy the rapacious propensities of certain people in authority.

The average rate of camel hire from Jeddah to Mecca this year has been, for the Indian pilgrims, 11 rupees, or 203½ piastres, which used to be divided as follows:—

Camel-man	..	..	..	..	..	5½	rupees =	101¼ piastres.
Mokharrij	..	..	..	..	..	1	,,	18½ ,,
Government duty		..	..	..	..	1	,,	18½ ,,
Guides ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	,,	18½ ,,
To profit some people in authority		..	..	..	..	2½	,,	46¼ ,,

There is another thing very curious, that the rate of camel hire was not the same for all nationalities. The camel hire between Jeddah and Mecca is fixed by Omer Nasseef Effendi, the agent of the Grand Shereef, having been previously sanctioned by the Grand Shereef himself, the rate being different for the pilgrims of the different nationalities according to the estimated state of their purses.

The Persians thus have to pay 2*l.* for the same journey for which Indians, who are considered very much inferior to them in pecuniary circumstances, pay only 11 rupees.

But from this I do not mean that the rate of camel hire for the Indians was fair; rather, far from it, as the various items of the sum which was taken from the Indians as camel hire detailed above clearly shows.

When I went up to Mecca during the last pilgrimage I myself made inquiries from the camel-men, and they confirmed the information which I had before about the sum they used to get.

I may as well mention here a case of stoppage of the Indian pilgrims at Mecca, and the consequent events as related to me by one Mohammed Rafi, an educated Indian who holds a respectable appointment under the Government of India. He came here during the last pilgrimage, and as he with his family and friends arrived here early, *i.e.* in the month of March, about two months before the Haj, he went up to Mecca, as customary, to perform certain religious ceremonies, to enable him and his companions to put off Ihram (the pilgrim robe). After this he wanted to go to Medina before the Haj, but notwithstanding his great exertions he could not get camels to convey the party back to Jeddah, as he intended to go to the former place viâ Yenbo. At last he was told by his Motawwif that unless he got a special order from the Grand Shereef there was no hope to get the camels. Accordingly Mohammed Rafi, in a state of disappointment, went to see the Grand Shereef, and after explaining that his short leave would not permit him to go to Medina after the Haj, he implored him to give orders to Mokharrij (the head of the camel-men) to provide him with a certain number of camels. After some consideration the Grand Shereef replied that as a special favour he will be allowed to get fifty camels for himself and his friends to go back to Jeddah, but it should be remembered that he cannot allow everybody to go to Medina viâ Yenbo, as it causes a great loss to him and others.

I might mention here another case of extortion practised in a very deceitful manner on the pilgrims. The pilgrims at the time of going to Arafat from Mecca were most deliberately kept ignorant of the rate of camel hire, which was not announced till the pilgrims returned after the Haj to Mecca. On their return they were made to pay 16 rupees per camel, and of course much more than they expected. On the other hand, while at Mecca I was told by some resident Indians, who had engaged camels from the camel-men, without the intervention of the Mokharrij, that they had to pay only 8 rupees for the same journey. I am quite sure the camel-men did never get more than 8 rupees for the journey from Mecca to Arafat and back, and that the amount realized over and above that from the pilgrims went to fill up the pockets of some other greedy and unprincipled people in authority at Mecca.

As regards the camel hire of the Medina caravan which went before the Haj, I was informed that the camel-men received a little more than they did in previous years, *i.e.*, 16 medjidiés, and out of the remaining 9 medjidiés, 2 were taken by the Government as duty, and the balance of 7 medjidiés was distributed, like other sums, among the persons who had control of the camel-men. The statements of the Turkish authorities that 5 medjidiés out of the camel hire were paid to the Motawwifs (guides), is as baseless as the other, that it has always been customary to pay them so. As far as I

have come to know from the inquiries, the Motawwifs at Mecca have never been paid anything out of the camel hire, but they realize their wages from the pilgrims with the house rent, and several other customary backsheesh, *e.g.*, the backsheesh for Zamzamis, the keepers of the keys of Caaba, the feeding of the pigeons of the Harem, &c., and the sum of 7 medjidiés, as every one knows here, goes to some other quarter.

I have myself seen at Mecca and Muna, the members of the Commission of Inquiry being worshipped by the personages whose faults the Commission had come to look into, and what can one think of these respectable gentlemen when they go back from Hedjaz with 2,000*l.* in their pockets, as it is a fact too well known in the well-informed circles of this place. The camel hire for the second Medina caravan was settled in the presence of the Commission of Inquiry, and the rate fixed (28 medjidiés per camel), itself shows that the Commission was nothing but a farce, and the poor pilgrims would not have been made to pay 3 medjidiés more for this caravan had the Commission not made its appearance in the country, and so the reasons are obvious that the pilgrims would have been more satisfied without a Commission of Inquiry, which has brought a disastrous and unexpected drain over their poor purses.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MOHAMMAD HUSSEIN.

No. 176.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September 7.*)

(No. 688.) *Therapia, August 31, 1896.*

My Lord,

THE seizure of the Ottoman Bank, reported in my despatch No. 682, Confidential, of the 27th August, appears to have been only part of a far wider conspiracy.

There is now little doubt that this attack was only one of a projected series of sensational demonstrations arranged with the object of forcing the attention of Europe to the Armenian question, most of which have fallen comparatively flat on account of the want of resolution of those intrusted with their execution. It is at any rate certain that a large number of Armenians were, and probably still are, concealed in Galata and Pera armed with bombs and other weapons.

The little at present known of this conspiracy is eminently characteristic of the state of Constantinople in the reign of the present Sultan. The authorities certainly knew that some disturbance was likely to occur, and there is little doubt that they proposed to quell it by ordering the troops to take no action, and by handing over the Armenian population to the fury of the Turkish mob. A large number of Softas and other fanatics were encouraged to come over from the Asiatic side, and there is nothing improbable in the stories current that the clubs and iron bars with which they were armed were furnished by the municipal authorities. In some cases Turks in the service of foreigners disappeared for two days, and on returning told their masters they had been enrolled by the police as special constables, provided with knives, and told to kill Armenians during thirty-six hours.

On the other hand, it seems clear that the secret police, who inundate Yildiz with reports on every detail of the doings of the most loyal Turks, had nothing more than a vague idea that some revolutionary movement was in the air, and if one considers the manner in which the Bank was taken, and the large quantities of bombs and dynamite possessed and probably manufactured by the conspirators, one is inevitably led to the conclusion that this ignorance and inaction can only be explained as the result of bribery.

On Wednesday afternoon, a little after the capture of the Ottoman Bank, a bomb was thrown on the troops from a house next door to Galata Serai, the Pera police-station near Her Majesty's Embassy. The house was at once attacked, and it is said about thirty persons were killed. Less important disturbances are also said to have occurred in Yeni Charshi and in the quarter immediately below the Embassy. A panic ensued, and the European population almost entirely abandoned the streets. Meanwhile bands began to appear composed partly of the low Turkish population of the quarter, but partly of individuals wearing turbans and long linen robes rarely seen

in this part of the town. They mostly carried clubs which had evidently been carefully shaped after a uniform pattern; some had, instead of these, iron bars, and many were armed with knives. They killed all the Armenians whom they met in the streets, and looted many shops in Galata. The work of destruction was, however, fiercest in the quarters of Kassim Pasha and Hasskeui, where the Armenian population has been almost annihilated. In the latter district the Jews, who are very numerous, sided with the Turks against the Christians. No trustworthy details of the massacres have yet been received, but even the Palace officials admit that the carnage was terrible. The pillage and slaughter continued in Galata, at any rate, during the next day. Public attention was naturally chiefly directed to those cases where shots were fired, although more lives were probably lost by the comparatively noiseless process of clubbing.

The shooting was mainly due to Armenians in the upper stories of houses firing on the mob, and it is difficult to decide if their object was self-defence or the provocation of disturbances.

Mr. Eliot and Mr. Wrench saw two of these episodes which took place on or near the quay, one quite close to where they were standing. The troops made no attempt to interfere, and merely moved out of the way of the shots, while the mob rushed down the quay and into the side streets with the object of attacking the house in the rear. I myself witnessed a similar scene in the afternoon of the same day at Pershombe Bazaar, near the Bank. I also saw the mob, who were in high spirits and laughing like children on a holiday, rush down to the bridge connecting Galata and Stamboul, and satisfied myself that the ostentatious efforts made by the police to disarm them were a simple farce. While I was on the quay a cart containing a number of dead and horribly wounded bodies drove by a crowd of Turks who obviously enjoyed the spectacle.

The Representatives of the Six Powers met on Thursday morning to consider the situation, and addressed to the Sublime Porte the collective *note verbale* (of which a copy is inclosed herewith) protesting against the attitude of the authorities and the massacre of innocent persons by the mob, demanding the immediate restoration of order and formulating reserves respecting indemnities.

We called especial attention to the fact that whereas the disturbance began about midday, the troops did not make their appearance till 6 P.M. on Wednesday.

We also sent, about 2 P.M. the French, Russian, and British Dragomans, in the name of the six Embassies, to protest at the Palace against the anarchy which prevailed in the town. On their way to Yildiz they seized clubs from two Turks, one of them an officer, and forced a third, whom they saw preparing to attack Christians, to accompany them to the Palace.

They exhibited their captive and trophies to the Imperial Secretaries and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and insisted on the necessity of immediately taking prompt and effective measures to restore order.

Izzet Bey explained that a series of Iradés had been issued with this object to the Military Commanders of the capital, that all the available troops had been distributed through the different quarters, and that reinforcements had been telegraphed for from Ismid and Adrianople; that an Extraordinary Commission had been formed to summarily judge and punish the culprits, finally that the Council of Ministers was sitting continuously in the Palace and elaborating a series of measures calculated to restore unruffled calm.

I received this account at about 5·30 P.M. in Galata, and subsequently heard prolonged firing at more than one point and saw other signs that the mob were still massacring and looting unchecked by the police or troops.

The Italian and German Ambassadors and the French Chargé d'Affaires also visited the town and arrived by personal inspection at the same conclusions as myself. I accordingly sent Mr. Eliot and Mr. Marinitch to the Palace with instructions to report what I had seen. Izzet Bey allowed that regrettable events had occurred, but said that at 10 o'clock Turkish (*i.e.*, two hours before sunset), reports had been received stating that order was restored in every part of the town. He also read several Iradés, which, he said, must be admitted by every one to be sufficient. Mr. Eliot and Mr. Marinitch replied that they had not come to argue as to the sufficiency of the orders issued, but to state that the British Chargé d'Affaires and other members of the Embassy had seen with their own eyes that so far from order prevailing at 10 o'clock Turkish, the town was still in the hands of the mob at 11·30; that they were able to testify that the troops and police had made no effort to prevent the slaughter of innocent persons or to protect the property of foreigners, and that if this state of

things continued, Her Majesty's Embassy would be in a position to assert that the Sultan, or those who were responsible for his receiving correct information, after being told by eye-witnesses of the carnage and pillage which was taking place in the capital, refused to put a stop to it.

They stated at the same time, by my instructions, that, in view of what was going on, I had landed sailors and marines to protect the Embassy, Consulate, and Post-office. Izzet Bey earnestly begged that these might be withdrawn, and said he was willing to guarantee the safety of the town; but they replied that I was unable to do so until I was satisfied that there was no longer any danger to the British colony.

There is no doubt that immediately after this the massacre stopped. Whatever disturbances occurred subsequently were due, not to the prevalence of mob law, but to conflicts between the police and the revolutionaries, such as are inevitable in any town where the authorities have to contend with conspirators who make use of fire-arms and dynamite. Rumours are current among Turks as well as Christians, that orders were issued that the massacre was to continue for a period whose length is variously estimated at from fifty to thirty hours, and that when this limit was reached the police interfered.

From what I hear, however, I am led to hope that my action in bringing my personal observations to the notice of the Sultan had a beneficial effect. The Palace officials had never contemplated the possibility of the Heads of European Missions being themselves eye-witnesses of the excesses committed by Mussulmans, and had imagined that they would be able to deny and distort what occurred as successfully as they did in the case of the provincial massacres last year. At any rate, at about 9 o'clock on Thursday night the mob dispersed. Mr. Dwight, Head of the Stamboul Bible House, informs me that the premises of his Society were in the course of the day several times surrounded by the mob, who were, however, unable to effect an entry. About 9 P.M. persons in the house distinctly heard it said in the street that orders had been issued for the massacre to cease, on which the crowd quietly dispersed.

Alarming news, however, continued to be received during the night, which seemed to show that the disorders were spreading up the Bosphorus. Subsequent investigations proved these stories to be greatly exaggerated, but at the moment a panic prevailed, and the Ambassadors thought it advisable to address a telegram direct to the Sultan, calling His Majesty's attention to the horrors which were being committed, and urging him to put an end to a state of things likely to have the most disastrous consequences for his Empire. I have the honour to inclose a copy of this message, which appears to have much disturbed and impressed the Sultan, who said he had never heard such language in the twenty years he had been on the throne. The Minister for Foreign Affairs visited the Austrian Ambassador (the doyen) at midnight, and asked in His Majesty's name what the telegram meant. I inclose Baron Calice's own account of his answer, from which it appears that he let Tewfik Pasha clearly understand that if such excesses continued to be committed under the eyes of Europe, public opinion would become convinced that the Turkish Government was incapable of maintaining order, and would seek for some more satisfactory substitute. Tewfik Pasha received an even less encouraging reply from the Russian Ambassador, whose language, as well as that of several of his staff, has been singularly violent. He said that if order was not restored at once he would send his gun-boat to bombard and raze to the ground a Turkish quarter, whatever might be the consequences for himself, and he added that he had informed the Chief of the Municipality of Buyukdere that if any disturbances occurred there he would land armed men and take him on board the Russian "stationnaire," where he would be held as a hostage.

On Saturday morning another meeting of the Representatives was held, at which was read the reply of the Sublime Porte to the collective note, a copy of which is inclosed.

This specious and ingenious document entirely ignores the main complaint of the Embassies, namely, that the Turkish authorities permitted indiscriminate massacres instead of using the force at their disposal to arrest and punish the guilty.

We replied in a second *note verbale*, copy of which is also inclosed, declining to enter into any discussion of details, and merely taking act of the assurances of the Porte that order was restored.

We then decided that it would be proper to mark our sense of the gravity of the situation by modifying the expressions of joy usual on the occasion of the Sultan's accession (Monday, the 31st August). It was agreed that the "stationnaires" should

dress as usual, but that the Embassies should not be illuminated, and that the Dragomans, if summoned (as is the custom) to the Palace to present the congratulations of their Chiefs, should make use of the following formula:—

"Le Premier Drogman de l'Ambassade de , en se présentant au Palais Impérial pour offrir les compliments d'usage à l'occasion de l'avènement au Trône de Sa Majesté Impériale, est chargé d'exprimer en même temps des regrets au sujet des événements douloureux qui ont signalé la vingtième année de son règne."

This was done to-day, and though the Sultan has made every effort to induce the Embassies to illuminate, they have decided to adhere to their resolution. A Notice has been published in the papers permitting the inhabitants of the town and the Bosphorus to illuminate, but forbidding them to let off fireworks. They were also warned not to walk in the streets or go out in boats.

The Turkish population now appear to be perfectly quiet, and confidence is being restored.

A panic, however, was created on Saturday evening by bombs being thrown on the troops from a house next door to the Ottoman Bank, and also from the Crédit Lyonnais. This was followed by a fusillade from the troops, which lasted for some time. Ultimately, six or eight Armenians were taken out of the first-named building alive or dead, and numerous arrests were made in other houses where the inhabitants had fired on the troops. A bomb was also thrown in Pera on Sunday or Monday, but injured no one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 176.

Collective Note to the Sublime Porte.

LES événements sanglants dont la ville de Constantinople a été le théâtre dans la journée et la nuit d'hier, à la suite d'une tentative criminelle des révolutionnaires Arméniens, ont mis en lumière avec la dernière évidence l'absence totale de sécurité et de mesures propres à maintenir l'ordre public dans la capitale. Alors que les troubles ont éclaté peu après midi, les premières mesures militaires n'ont été prises que vers [?] heures du soir et encore les troupes sont-elles restées impassibles en face des excès auxquels se livraient des bandes de gens sans aveu qui, armés de gourdins et de couteaux, attaquaient et assommaient des passants absolument inoffensifs. La police de son côté, loin d'empêcher la circulation de ces bandes s'est associé dans plusieurs cas à leurs méfaits. Des zaptiés, des soldats armés, et même des officiers ont été vus pénétrant de force dans les maisons et envahissant des établissements étrangers dont plusieurs ont été complètement saccagés.

Les Représentants des Grandes Puissances croient devoir appeler l'attention la plus sérieuse de la Sublime Porte sur les conséquences d'un tel état de choses, qui touchent à l'anarchie. Ils exigent que des mesures immédiates soient prises pour désarmer la populace, punir les coupables, et renforcer les moyens d'action de l'autorité chargée du maintien de l'ordre. En priant la Sublime Porte de vouloir bien leur faire connaître sans délai les dispositions qui auront été adoptées conformément à ces demandes, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances formulent dès à présent toutes leurs réserves au sujet des dommages subis par leurs ressortissants du fait des récents désordres et de l'absence de protection dont la responsabilité incombe aux autorités locales.

Présentée le 27 Août par le Premier Drogman de l'Ambassade d'Autriche au nom des Représentants des Grandes Puissances.

Inclosure 2 in No. 176.

Telegram to Sultan.

LES Représentants des Grandes Puissances réunis pour conférer sur la situation se croient en dessin de signaler à l'attention la plus sérieuse de Sa Majesté Impériale les nouvelles graves qui leur parviennent au sujet de la continuation des désordres dans la capitale et dans ses environs. Des bandes de gens armés ne cessent de poursuivre et de tuer impunément les Arméniens, et non contents de les exterminer dans les rues entrent dans les maisons, même dans celles occupées par des étrangers, pour se saisir de leurs victimes et les massacrer. Des faits pareils se sont passés sous les yeux de quelques-uns des Représentants eux-mêmes, et de plusieurs des membres de leurs Ambassades. Outre la ville de telles horreurs ont eu lieu encore cette nuit dans plusieurs villages du Bosphore, tels que Bebec, Roumili Hissar, Candilee et autres. En présence de faits semblables les Représentants des Grandes Puissances s'adressent aux noms de leurs Gouvernements directement à la personne de votre Majesté comme Chef de l'État, pour demander instamment de donner sans délai des ordres précis et catégoriques propres à mettre fin immédiatement à cet état de choses inouï, qui est de nature à amener pour son Empire des conséquences les plus désastreuses.

Inclosure 3 in No. 176.

Baron Calice to Mr. Herbert.

Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie, Buyukdéré,
le 20 Août, 1896.

Mon cher collègue,

J'AI consulté les notes que j'ai prises la nuit passée sur la visite de Tewfik Pacha. Voici comment j'ai répondu à sa demande confidentielle.

Je lui ai dit que le télégramme collectif des Ambassadeurs s'expliquait suffisamment par l'extrême gravité et l'urgence des circonstances, que si la situation présentait un danger, celui-ci ne provenait pas d'un changement de la part des Puissances dont les sentiments conservateurs, pacifiques et amicaux vers Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan ont été prouvés encore dernièrement par leurs efforts de pacifier la Crète, mais des faits inouïs qui venait de se passer à Constantinople: que dans cette circonstance la Turquie ne pouvait pas compter sur la même incrédulité de l'Europe comme l'hiver passé à l'égard des faits sanglants de l'Arménie sur lesquels la vérité avait eu quelques difficultés à se faire jour. Mais que depuis il y avait eu des rapports les plus dignes de foi qui avaient éclairé l'opinion publique et que les événements récents de Constantinople, qui se sont passés en partie sous les yeux des Représentants des Puissances eux-mêmes, de leurs employés et d'une nombreuse population étrangère soulèverait un cri d'horreur dans toute l'Europe. Le véritable danger pour les intérêts de Sa Majesté Impériale était donc, de mon avis, qu'il ne s'établisse une opinion générale que la Turquie n'est pas en état de gouverner avec justice, de punir les coupables et de protéger les innocents sans distinction de race et de religion, mais qu'au contraire, voulant s'appuyer sur les Musulmans seuls et en laissant un libre cours à leurs passions, elle ne cesse et ne cessera de livrer ses peuples Chrétiens à l'oppression et aux plus cruelles persécutions sus l'espoir même d'obtenir justice.

J'ai conclu que c'était donc là le véritable danger de la situation, et que plus une pareille impression prendrait racine, plus la question se présenterait, quel pouvait être le remède à tant de maux?

Mille, &c.
(Signé) CALICE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 176.

Note Verbale.

EN ayant l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note collective que MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances lui ont remise à la date d'hier, la Sublime Porte est bien aise de constater en premier lieu que leurs Excellences reconnaissent elles-mêmes

officiellement que les événements sanglants dont la ville de Constantinople a été le théâtre dans la journée et la nuit de Mercredi 26 courant, étaient dus à une tentative criminelle des révolutionnaires Arméniens.

Comme cependant il est dit dans cette communication que l'application des mesures militaires a subi des lenteurs, que les troupes étaient restées impassibles en face des excès commis par des bandes de gens sans aveu et que la police, loin d'empêcher la circulation de ces bandes, s'est associée dans plusieurs cas à leurs méfaits, la Sublime Porte croit devoir fournir à leurs Excellences les Représentants des Grandes Puissances des explications propres à leur démontrer que l'attitude des autorités Impériales en cette circonstance a été aussi ferme et aussi correcte que possible.

Sur l'avis parvenu aux autorités de la police que des projets séditieux étaient tramés par les agitateurs Arméniens, les troupes et les agents de police chargés du maintien de l'ordre dans la ville avaient été renforcés et des mesures avaient été prises pour assurer la sécurité sur les principaux points de la capitale.

L'assertion comme quoi aucune mesure propre à maintenir l'ordre public n'avait été adoptée, se trouve infirmée par le fait même que les soldats, les gendarmes, et les agents de police, portés par mesure de précaution aux environs de la Banque Ottomane, où précisément les Anarchistes Arméniens ont commencé à se porter à leurs criminelles aggressions, ont été les premières victimes de leurs attentats.

Comme tout le monde a pu le constater, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a cessé, depuis les incidents de l'année dernière, d'user de la plus grande vigilance pour assurer le maintien de la sécurité et de l'ordre publics en faisant circuler sans interruption des détachements de troupes à pied et à cheval, tant à Stamboul qu'à Péra et à Galata.

Les fauteurs de désordres, dont une partie s'étaient enfermée dans le local de la Banque, perpétuèrent aussi toutes sortes de méfaits sur différents points de Galata et de Péra ainsi qu'à Psamatia et dans d'autres quartiers de la ville en se barricadant dans les maisons du haut desquelles ils faisaient pleuvoir des coups de feu et des bombes tuant et blessant non seulement des passants et des soldats, mais aussi des femmes et des enfants.

Le nombre des soldats et agents de l'autorité tués ou blessés ainsi par les agitateurs est considérable. Plus d'une trentaine ont été déjà transportés à l'hôpital militaire de Gumuch-Sou, et beaucoup d'autres distribués dans les différents établissements hospitaliers de la capitale pour y être soignés. Les autorités Impériales sont en train d'en faire dresser une liste qui sera remise à MM. les Représentants des Puissances pour leur édification.

Ces provocations ayant naturellement produit une grande surexcitation parmi la population Musulmane, des dispositions immédiates furent prises pour ramener le calme dans les esprits et mettre un terme aux désordres. Des instructions catégoriques furent données aux Commandants Militaires et aux autorités de la police leur enjoignant, entre autres, de sommer les meneurs barricadés dans les maisons et dans les divers établissements à rentrer dans l'obéissance et dans le cas où ils refuseraient de se rendre et feraient usage de leurs armes, de leur riposter ainsi que cela se pratique partout; de protéger et de mettre à l'abri de toute atteinte la vie et les biens des habitants paisibles et des étrangers; d'empêcher qu'aucun individu, à quelque classe ou religion qu'il appartînt, empiétât sur les devoirs incombant à l'autorité, afin d'arrêter et de livrer à la justice tous ceux qui contreviendraient à cette mesure.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ne s'est pas borné à donner ces ordres, mais il veille scrupuleusement à leur observation.

Le Maréchal Shakir Pacha, chef de la Maison Militaire de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, fut envoyé sur les lieux pour activer les efforts déployés par les troupes afin de réprimer au plus tôt les désordres provoqués par les Anarchistes, qui, retranchés dans les maisons, ne cessaient de faire tomber sur tous ceux qui se trouvaient à leur portée une grêle de balles et de bombes. Le Ministre de l'Intérieur, de son côté, parcourait en personne les rues pour rassurer la population effrayée et surveiller l'application des mesures adoptées par l'autorité pour déloger les insurgés des bâtiments où ils s'étaient retranchés et pour mettre les vagabonds et les gens sans aveu dans l'impossibilité de nuire en leur enlevant les gourdins et couteaux qu'on trouvait entre leurs mains.

Néanmoins, comme il n'était pas possible à la force armée, quelque fût son chiffre, d'occuper tous les points et passages où les meneurs s'étaient barricadés, les endroits que étaient restés en dehors de la surveillance des troupes ayant été malheureusement

le théâtre de faits regrettables, de nouveaux ordres furent donnés pour l'arrestation et la punition des coupables sans distinction.

Quant au passage de la note précitée se rapportant à l'attitude des zaptiés et soldats armés qui, sous prétexte de rechercher des Arméniens, auraient pénétré de force dans les maisons et établissements étrangers, il y a lieu de faire observer qu'en un pareil moment de troubles, l'inviolabilité du domicile serait provisoirement suspendue dans n'importe quel pays pour permettre la poursuite et l'arrestation des coupables. Du reste, il est établi qu'en rentrant ainsi dans les maisons et établissements le but des soldats et des agents de police n'était point d'y rechercher des Arméniens, mais bien, comme il a été dit plus haut, de mettre la main sur les agitateurs qui, de l'intérieur de ces locaux, fomentaient les désordres en tuant les passants et les soldats au moyen de bombes jetées et de coups de feu tirés par les fenêtres.

Aujourd'hui encore, au moment où la troupe revenant du Sélamlik passait devant Galata-Séraï, une bombe a été jetée du haut d'une maison sise sur le parcours, mais bien que l'engin ait fait explosion il n'y a eu heureusement aucune victime. Deux Arméniens réfugiés au troisième étage de la dite maison ont été arrêtés et livrés à la justice.

En outre, une perquisition opérée à l'école des filles de Psamatia a amené la découverte dans l'armoire de la maîtresse d'école Aghavin de trente-six bombes, de sept capsules, et quatre boîtes de cartouches de revolver, et d'un paquet de capsules de dynamite.

Cependant, grâce aux mesures adoptées, les désordres ont été partout réprimées et l'autorité s'occupe actuellement à assurer l'avenir en mettant les agitateurs dans l'impossibilité de se livrer de nouveau aux actes sanglants qui ont compromis la sécurité de la capitale, porté atteinte aux intérêts des commerçants étrangers et indigènes et contrecarré les vues pacifiques de l'Europe.

Pour ne pas prolonger la détention préventive des Musulmans et des Arméniens arrêtés lors de ces incidents, il a été institué un Tribunal Extraordinaire composé de hauts fonctionnaires judiciaires tant Musulmans que Chrétiens avec mission de procéder avec la plus grande célérité à l'instruction de leurs cas; ceux d'entre eux qui seraient reconnus coupables seront déférés aux Tribunaux et ceux dont l'innocence serait démontrée, remis aussitôt en liberté. Un ordre Impérial enjoint en outre au Département de la Justice de hâter le jugement des procès déférés aux Tribunaux criminels.

En ayant l'honneur de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances, la Sublime Porte aime à espérer que leurs Excellences voudront bien reconnaître dans leur appréciation éclairée que les dispositions suscitées sont une preuve de la sincérité de ses intentions et de son désir d'appliquer strictement les lois.

La véritable cause de l'extension de la panique doit être recherchée dans les rumeurs alarmantes répandues par ceux qui, effrayés à la vue des rassemblements provoqués par le bruit des détonations et de certains individus à mine suspecte, sont naturellement portés à exagérer les faits.

Sublime Porte, le 28 Août, 1896.

Inclosure 5 in No. 176.

Note Verbale.

LES Représentants des Grandes Puissances ont l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note que son Excellence Tewfik Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, a voulu leur adresser en date du 16 (28) Août en réponse à leur note collective du 15 (27).

Sans s'arrêter aux détails des faits qui y sont exposés et qui sur plusieurs points diffèrent essentiellement des informations authentiques reçues par les Ambassades, ne vouloir entrer en discussion sur le principe émis dans la dite note quant au droit de perquisition au sujet duquel les Représentants croient devoir faire les réserves les plus formelles, ils se bornent à prendre acte des assurances qui leur sont données que toutes les mesures nécessaires ont été prises pour le rétablissement de l'ordre et la répression des excès commis par les perturbateurs, mesures dont l'efficacité ne pourra être jugée que par leurs résultats.

No. 177.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 690.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 31, 1896.*

ON the night of Thursday the 27th disturbances occurred at Bebek, Roumeli-Hissar, and Candilli, villages on the Bosphorus, where there is a considerable British population. Six or seven Armenians in foreign employ were killed, and a number of warehouses and other premises broken into and pillaged by the mob. Some of these premises were next door to the residence of British subjects; but I cannot ascertain that any British domicile was actually violated. The troops took no steps to put a stop to the disturbances, and several Englishmen asserted that they overheard conversations between their own Mahommedan servants and soldiers, which left no doubt that these latter incited the mob to deeds of violence.

Though the disorders on this part of the Bosphorus were trifling compared to those which occurred in Constantinople, a panic spread rapidly among the English colony. Mehemet Ali, a young Egyptian Prince who resides at Bebek, invited a prominent English family to take refuge on the yacht anchored off his Palace, and a messenger was dispatched to the Embassy with an appeal for assistance. I accordingly sent Her Majesty's ship "Imogene" down to the disturbed part of the Bosphorus with orders to bring up to Therapia any British residents who might consider themselves in danger. About six families availed themselves of the invitation.

The next morning at 11 o'clock a crowd of about thirty English people, who had come up from Bebek in boats, entered Her Majesty's Embassy with somewhat incoherent demands for assistance. It was explained to them that there was no reason to believe their lives were in danger, as not a single foreign subject had been touched; that, though Her Majesty's Embassy were ready to do all in their power for the protection of British property, there were many claims on the small forces at their disposal; the "Dryad" and "Cockatrice" were occupied at Constantinople, and it was impossible to send the "Imogene" away from Therapia. They were therefore advised to remain quietly in a hotel here, and return to Bebek next day if no further disturbance occurred.

These arguments seemed to produce a certain effect at the time; but about 1 o'clock the male part of the fugitives returned, saying they could find no satisfactory accommodation, and repeating their request for protection "under the British flag." I think, however, it would have been possible to restore confidence had not a most unfortunate incident occurred. While the deputation was in the Embassy the Turkish guard shot two Armenians hardly 100 yards distant. This naturally produced a profound impression, and I myself felt no certainty that this assault would not be followed by other hostile demonstrations. I therefore thought it best to accede to the request of the deputation to be embarked on an English steamer, and I immediately dispatched twenty-four, mostly women and children, in the Embassy launch to Constantinople. On their arrival it proved impossible to find any British steamer, as all had left on account of the disordered state of the port. I therefore caused to be chartered the "Hungaria," a vessel belonging to the Austrian Lloyd Company, who consented to give the Embassy the use of her for the very moderate sum of 20*l.* a-day. The twenty-four refugees were placed on board of her at once, and the "Cockatrice" proceeded to Bebek to pick up those for whom there was no room on the launch which went down from Therapia, and any others who wished to leave the village. The total number of refugees on board the "Hungaria" was about fifty-five.

On Saturday I was of opinion, for reasons given in another despatch, that the character of the situation had changed, that the Ottoman authorities had determined to put a stop to mob law, and that whatever conflicts might occur were the result of the resistance of Armenian revolutionaries to the legitimate exercise of authority by the troops and the police. I accordingly visited the "Hungaria," and informed the refugees that I saw no further reason for retaining the vessel at the public expense; that they were at liberty to do so themselves if they chose to subscribe 20*l.*, which would not have come to much per head, as they were all well-to-do people; and that if they chose to return to Bebek they would be conveyed there on board the "Cockatrice," which would remain to guard them until Tuesday. Fresh air and isolation from the alarmist gossip of the European colonies had bred in them a dim feeling that their conduct had not been heroic, and they returned to Bebek on Sunday morning.

The inhabitants of Cadikeui and Moda, where no disturbances had occurred, on the Asiatic side, also sent a deputation to the Consulate to ask for protection, and were advised to go on board the "Hungaria." They objected to this, because she was anchored too far from their home; and they chartered, as I understand, a large English steamer, called the "Rameses," to lie off Cadikeui in readiness to embark them in case of an outbreak. At their request I also sent the "Cockatrice" to pay a short visit to their district.

I learn that in the last few days most of the Embassies have received similar applications from their respective colonies, and that the French and Russian Representatives have requisitioned steamers to serve as refuges for their compatriots.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 178.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 691.) *Therapia, September 1, 1896.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 656 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Fitzmaurice respecting the reconversion of the Armenian converts to Islam at Birejik and Roum-Kaleh.

Mr. Fitzmaurice has informed me since by telegram that the converts of Ehnesh, Jibin, and Khalfati, three of the villages of Roum-Kaleh, who were still Mussulmans at the time his despatch was written, have reverted to Christianity, and that the Headmen of the surrounding Kurdish villages have given a written guarantee for future security of the converts of Roum-Kaleh.

Mr. Fitzmaurice, who telegraphed from Ourfa on the 28th instant, informed me that he had arrived there the day before, and that he was expecting the Commission to arrive the same day, and added that in his opinion the converts to Islam in that place would revert very shortly to Christianity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Birejik, August 13, 1896.*

IN my despatch from here, dated the 22nd July, I had the honour to report the circumstances attending the reconversion to Christianity of the Armenians of this town.

The Christian community once re-established in Birejik, I turned my attention to the converts in the villages mentioned towards the end of my report from Birejik of the 5th March last.

I had previously been in communication with them, and told them to look to Birejik, and imitate the action of the Birejik Armenians. Finding, however, that the reconversion of the latter did not suffice to overcome their fears, I begged your Excellency by telegraph on the 14th July to have instructions sent to the Kaïmakam of Roum-Kaleh, in whose caza Ehnesh, Jibin, and Khalfati are situate.

At my request, the Kaïmakam of Birejik, on the 17th July, summoned the Mussulman Headman of Nisib, situated in this caza, and instructed him to take measures to reassure the Armenians of his village, and bring about their return to Christianity. As this, however, had not the required effect, I sent thither the Birejik Protestant Pastor, whose assurances on my behalf induced the Nisib Armenian community to revert to their former faith on Sunday, 26th July.

I further begged the Kaïmakam to write a friendly letter to the Kaïmakam of Roum-Kaleh, acquainting him with the reconversion of the Birejik Armenians, and suggesting that he should endeavour to bring about the same result in his caza. My request being strongly backed by the Commission, who were extremely reluctant after their two months stay at Birejik to make a tour among the Roum-Kaleh villages in the prevailing excessive heat.

I anticipated that the joint effect of the Kaïmakam's letter and the instructions sent

through you, Sir, would obviate the necessity of my making a protracted stay at Roum-Kaleh, a simple visit there sufficing to settle the question of the villages.

As the Armenians there informed me that without some outside encouragement they could not think of reverting, and that if I could pass twenty-four hours at Roum-Kaleh they would all become Christian. On the 20th July I begged your approval to make a flying visit there.

On the 28th July your Excellency finally informed me that you "did not want me to go alone." As the Commission, by their mere presence here, although without instructions or powers, had a deterrent effect on the disturbing elements, and as there had been a recrudescence of menaces and uneasiness, I replied the same day that the Commission should not leave here before the tranquillity of the town, which was far from satisfactory, was assured, at the same time suggesting that the Reserves stationed in the Roum-Kaleh villages, who had been plundering and intimidating the converts there, should be replaced by a company of the battalion of Regulars recently arrived in Birejik.

I urged the same measure locally, but found that such a change was subject to superior order. However, at my instance, the three companies of Reserves actually stationed in the villages were recalled, and one company of picked Reserve men sent to replace them on the 30th July.

On the same day I sent thither the Protestant pastor with a letter of recommendation from the Kaïmakam to endeavour to bring about the return to Christianity of the Roum-Kaleh Armenians, judging that the arrival of the new Reserves would have an encouraging effect on the Armenians.

Shortly afterwards, doubtless owing to your representations, the Vali of Aleppo inquired of the Birejik local authorities whether a company of Regulars could be spared for Roum-Kaleh, to which they replied in the affirmative.

In the meantime, though the Armenians of Birejik had declared themselves Christian, and the authorities exerted themselves to protect them from molestation, indirect menaces did not entirely cease.

Two Armenians who had become Mussulman before the Birejik massacre, but after the Marash, Aintab, and first Ourfa massacres, could not get rid of their fears and declare themselves Christian, although the official formalities required for their final recognition as Mussulmans had not been gone through, and they clearly came under the category of "converts of Islamism resulting from last year's disorders." Their fears communicated themselves to four or five of their relatives, who also persisted in an outward profession of Islamism, and the fanatical portion of the population, who viewed with evident displeasure the return of the Armenian community to Christianity, endeavoured, by menaces of a fresh massacre after the departure of the Commission and myself, to prevent these remaining few converts from becoming Christian.

On the Kaïmakam informing them that, now that the entire community had reverted to their former faith, they, too, must make up their minds to become Christian, or be officially recognized as Mussulmans, again urged by their fears and secret threats, they, on Thursday, the 23rd July, presented Petitions to Government praying to be officially recognized, and the authorities agreed to go through the necessary formalities on the following Saturday.

Seeing that their being recognized officially would produce a bad effect on the converts at Roum-Kaleh and elsewhere, I urged the authorities not to perform the formalities, as these Armenians plainly came under the class of converts from the massacres, and their presenting Petitions was undoubtedly the result of their fears.

The matter was consequently dropped, and during the following week four of them became Christians.

The Mussulmans, nevertheless, did not cease to secretly threaten the others, and the result of their remaining in this uncertain position was a large amount of disquiet in the town.

On Thursday, the 30th July, a new Kaïmakam arrived, suddenly summoned all those who were wavering, and on their persisting—still under the influence of their fears—that they were Mussulmans, proceeded to go through the formalities of official recognition. This took place suddenly, without my knowledge, and on my pointing out the extraordinary nature of their proceedings in recognizing converts from last year's disorders, although the Sultan had promised that such converts would not be officially recognized, the Kaïmakam replied that he had done so to define the position of those who were apparently neither Mussulman or Christian.

I then discovered that the formalities had been irregular, inasmuch as the priest in attendance was Gregorian, whereas some of those recognized were Catholics, and some Protestants.

Seeing that their conduct was irregular, and would probably be disavowed by Constantinople, they found some pretext for annulling the recognition, although the Kaïmakam and Commissioners had previously informed me that the recognition was final, and that there could be no question of these Armenians reverting to Christianity without their being considered as apostate.

The worst feature of the incident was that it was immediately seized upon by the fanatical party, who prepared Petitions, and, by menaces, compelled any timid Armenians to sign and bring them to Government, begging to be officially recognized.

If the manœuvre had not been "nipped in the bud," they would have continued the process, till the greater part of the Armenians had been reconverted to Islamism, thus wrecking the work of the last two months here.

On the following day the authorities received a sharply-worded telegram from the Grand Vizier, upon which they hastened to announce that no more Petitions would be received.

I urged the Commissioner and Kaïmakam to summon all the Moslem Notables, give them serious and sound advice as to their future behaviour, and engage them verbally to undertake that they would exert their influence over their followers to prevent any action calculated to disturb the peace, enjoining them to live in harmony with their Christian fellow-citizens. This was done in a very solemn manner, and will have a solid and permanent effect, being the best substitute for a written guarantee.

On the same day, in virtue of orders from the Vali, Ahmed Effendi, Mayor of this town, was summoned to Ourfa, doubtless to explain his attitude in all this question to the Mutessarif.

On my previous visit to this town in March last I learnt from various quarters that Ahmed Effendi was one of the prime movers in the disturbances which resulted in the massacre here of the 1st January last, and that he was one of forty individuals who manœuvred and brought about that untoward incident. Though being a man of great shrewdness, in addition to an absolutely fearless and fierce fanaticism, when the massacre began, and subsequently, he outwardly pretended to deplore it, while secretly encouraging his kindred spirits among the fanatical party to prevent the Christians from declaring their real religious belief.

He used the influence attaching to his position as Mayor of this town to the same end, and managed to entangle the converts in a regular network of marriage and other complications with the Moslems, so as to render their return to Christianity exceedingly difficult if not an impossibility.

A day or two before the 12th July, the date of the reversion of the Armenians to Christianity, the four principal Armenian Notables, as related in my despatch of the 22nd July, were wavering, whilst the rest of the community declared their fixed resolve to leave Birejik unless the four Notables also became Christians. Exasperated at the courage shown by the Armenians, and as a last attempt to retain the four Notables as Moslems, he forgot himself for the moment and declared his real sentiments on the matter by exclaiming in the presence of the former Kaïmakam, Khalil Sidhi Effendi, "Let them (the Armenians) leave Birejik and go to hell rather than that the four Notables, by becoming Christian, should lead to the re-establishment of a Christian community in Birejik."

The expression of a decidedly unparliamentary nature showed the inner working of his fanatical and uncompromising hostility to their return to their former faith. The incident was twice related to me by the former Kaïmakam, Khalil Sidhi Effendi, but I refrained from reporting it at the time, in the hope that Ahmed Effendi, once confronted with the accomplished fact of the Armenians having reverted to Christianity, would cease his tactics of opposition to a peaceable solution of the question. In this, however, I was deceived, for I subsequently learnt that the menaces which prevented the few Armenians from reverting with the others, and led to the petition and official recognition question, were mainly the result of his secret instigation, and that while he officially upbraided them for not reverting, he secretly summoned two of them, told them to pay no attention to his official utterances, and to be careful not to imitate the other Armenians, in becoming Christian, as they were apostates in the eyes of the Muhammedan "Sheri" law, and would all one day or other be put to death.

Seeing that his blind fanaticism would prevent his ever reconciling himself to the reconversion of the Christians to their former faith, I reported his conduct and attitude to your Excellency by telegraph on the 31st July, insisting that the future tranquillity of Birejik demanded at least his dismissal from his post as Mayor, if not his permanent exile.

On the 5th August you informed me that the Grand Vizier had promised to

dismiss him if the charges against him were proved, and as he was suddenly summoned to Ourfa the same day, I presume the intention is to examine into his conduct.

As the result of the Armenians having remained Moslems for over six months, there was left a crop of strange family and marriage entanglements which cost me a deal of intricate negotiation to unravel and adjust.

Several Armenians, who had taken advantage of the rather generous uxorial laws of Islam by taking a second and even a third wife, were loathe to part with their younger and newly-acquired partners; and in the absence of proper Divorce Courts at Birejik, I was called upon to exert my influence in bringing about an arrangement more in consonance with Christian marriage laws.

Again, a number of Armenian girls had been married to Moslems, and after some very delicate and laborious negotiations, I succeeded in restoring to their now Christian parents, some eight or nine who preferred the certainty of a life-long celibacy or the rather shadowy chance of being accepted in wedlock by a Christian husband, to remaining the light of a Moslem harem. As one or two are in a state of pregnancy, the future question of parentage may be fraught with difficulty, which doubtless the Mufti and Armenian priest will satisfactorily settle.

I refrain from wearying your Excellency with details of questions of dowry; suffice it to say that in most cases they were most amicably arranged. While corresponding with your Excellency concerning the measures proposed by me for the future security of the Armenians here, I have also been in communication with the Vali on the subject, through Mr. Catone, who has most energetically supported my demands.

In addition to the verbal promise exacted from the Moslems to aid in maintaining the future tranquillity of this town, the principal Moslems and Christians of Birejik were, on the 9th August, obliged to sign a joint Mazbata mutually undertaking to live henceforth in peace and harmony.

On the same day the Vali requested the new Kaïmakam here to report on the past conduct of Ahmed Effendi. I duly reported to you that the Kaïmakam, who was only recently arrived and unacquainted with the situation here, and without making any serious inquiry, had replied that the accusations against Ahmed Effendi were groundless. At the same time, through Mr. Catone, I informed the Vali of the real value of the Kaïmakam's report, insisting his Excellency should inquire of the former Kaïmakam, or send a special official here, with powers to institute a searching inquiry and take action accordingly.

With reference to, and in combination of, my remarks at the beginning of this despatch on the Roum-Kaleh villages, in spite of my insistance, both with your Excellency and the Vali, on the necessity of withdrawing the Reserve troops altogether from Birejik and Roum-Kaleh, and replacing them at the latter place by one company of the Birejik battalion of Regular troops, orders suddenly arrived here yesterday to send the entire Birejik battalion of Reserves to Roum-Kaleh.

I at once reported to you and to the Vali that such a measure would do more harm than good, as the Reserves, who had received no pay for some eight months, would live upon and be a burden, instead of a protection, to the Armenian villagers there, already twice plundered by the Kurds, at the same time begging his Excellency the Vali to instruct the Roum-Kaleh Kaïmakam to summon the Headmen ("Mouktars") of the Kurdish villages adjacent to the three Armenian villages, and exact from them a written or verbal guarantee that the Armenians on reversion shall not be molested.

I am confident that the converts of Ehnesh, Jibin, and Khalfati will revert to Christianity immediately on our arrival; and the above two measures, if adopted, will secure the permanent tranquillity of the region.

I expect the Commission will receive its orders to proceed to Roum-Kaleh to-day or to-morrow, and, in accordance with your instructions, I shall accompany them. As, however, there is no telegraph there, I shall report to you the result of our action from Ourfa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 179.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 695.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship a few general considerations suggested by the remarkable events which have occurred at Constantinople during the last week.

I would first draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that these events are the result not of the recklessness of a few desperadoes, but of a conspiracy of the Armenian nationality at Constantinople.

The movement was essentially popular, and supported most strongly by such classes as the "hamals" (or porters) and the "oda-bashis" (or servants) in the various business establishments of Galata. In more than one instance, servants employed and trusted by Europeans have been proved to have taken an active part in the conspiracy.

The Secret Society styled itself "Dashnaktsoutian," or amalgamation, which doubtless means that it represented the union of the Hintchag, Troshag, and other revolutionary Associations, and though mainly recruited from the lower classes, probably have the sympathy of all Armenians except the small but wealthy and important *clique* represented by such people as the *locum tenens* of the Patriarchate and his Council. It is very remarkable that Koum-Kapou, where these officials live, was carefully guarded, and remained absolutely intact, whereas a frightful slaughter took place in the adjoining Armenian quarters.

The new régime of submission to the Sultan was perhaps the immediate cause of the present outbreak. The agitation had doubtless been preparing for months, but the resignation of Mgr. Ismirlian and the accession to office of a body of men detested as traitors and creatures of the Turkish Court, produced great indignation among the common people and a deep-seated conviction that unless they struck some blow they would be sold body and soul to the Turks. It is remarkable that so wide-spread a conspiracy should not have been more successful. Two causes may perhaps be assigned for its failure. One is the essentially unheroic and selfish character of the Armenian people. Though possessed of enormous powers of resistance, which have enabled them, like the Jews, to preserve their national character and independence under the most trying circumstances, they seem incapable of daring and combined action. The second reason is that they had no definite programme of their own. Dr. Washburn, the President of Robert's College, who has educated many hundred Armenians, is of opinion that their plan of action was greatly influenced by reading the works of Mr. Stevenson. They hoped to attract the sympathetic attention of Europe, and expected, in all probability, assistance from the Young Turkey party. This party has, as your Lordship is aware, long made much noise without doing anything, and their failure to take advantage of the recent crisis is only another proof of their sluggishness in action.

The means adopted by the Turkish authorities for suppressing the conspiracy were eminently characteristic. They knew of its existence; they probably could have known all the details, and they certainly could have nipped the whole movement in the bud had they chosen to make use of the enormous resources of the Turkish police. Instead of this, they preferred to organize and arm a mob of assassins. Their object was no doubt to destroy as many Armenians as possible. Had this been done by the soldiers or police, the Government would have been directly responsible, but the successful massacres in the provinces last winter had spread a conviction that they could explain away or disclaim responsibility for the deeds of the mob. One may feel doubtful how far the Sultan realized what was being done. Yildiz is isolated geographically and morally from the rest of Constantinople, and "enrolling special constables to keep the peace," which is perhaps the formula approved by His Majesty, sounds quite different from "licensing armed bands of ruffians to murder and pillage," which is the European translation. But I believe that the Muhommedan mob is always entirely under the Sultan's control. The Turks have never lost the consciousness that they are an invading army holding lands which they can only keep by maintaining discipline among themselves. Last summer in Macedonia they were told to keep quiet, and did so under considerable provocation; last winter in the provinces and now in Constantinople they were told to destroy Armenians, and did so until bidden to stop.

The discipline of the troops, when they received their orders, was admirable, but as the Sultan declined to allow the enormous garrisons which surround Yildiz to be distributed through the town, it was necessary to send for troops from Ismidt and Adrianople, which seems ridiculous if one considers the military strength of Constantinople. Also the troops in the capital, owing to His Majesty's fears, are not allowed any musketry practice, and I am told that many of the soldiers when ordered to fire hardly knew how to put the cartridges into their rifles, and had to be instructed by their officers.

It is hard to say whether order is now permanently restored. I am disposed to think that except in the case of great provocation being offered by the Armenians, the Mussulmans are likely to rest from their labours for a time unless again called upon by the authorities. The Sultan is, I believe, thoroughly alarmed, and in this connection I would venture to call your Lordship's attention to the action of the Russian Embassy, who have taken a more active part than any other during these disturbances.

When the Bank was attacked the Russian First Dragoman went to the Palace with Sir E. Vincent and arranged first with the Sultan and then with the insurgents the terms of the surrender.

M. Nélidoff threatened to raze a Turkish quarter if the disturbances continued, and sent a guard of sailors to bury with military honours an Armenian killed at Therapia. Such demonstrations have produced their effect at Yildiz. On the other hand, it seems probable that a large number of Armenians armed with bombs are still hidden in Galata and Pera.

The bombs are less destructive than such engines usually are, and are thrown unskilfully by their bearers, who are probably by now almost starved out. But a recrudescence of the conspiracy is possible at any minute, and I fear that if it is suppressed for the present, one must look forward to a repetition of such scenes in the future unless the Armenian nationality is either exterminated or placed in a more satisfactory position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 180.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 695 A.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 2, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 377 of to-day, I have the honour to inclose copy of a collective note which has been addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Representatives of the Great Powers calling attention to the organization by the Turkish authorities of an armed mob for the purpose of massacring Armenians in Constantinople, and demanding an inquiry in regard to their organization and the punishment of its authors and of those who formed part of it.

Having been a witness of the admirable conduct of the Turkish troops in Galata after they received their orders from the Sultan, I sent the First Dragoman to the Palace on Sunday to express my satisfaction at their behaviour, and I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch containing the substance of the Sultan's message in reply.

In view of the assurances given to me and to my colleagues by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, directly after the disturbances broke out, that every measure had been taken to restore order, I desire to call your Lordship's special attention to the admission made by Izzet Bey, on behalf of the Sultan, that His Majesty did not take the necessary steps at first owing to his not having realized the gravity of the situation.

Any comment is superfluous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 180.

Collective Note to the Sublime Porte.

Le 31 Août, 1896.

EN se référant à leur note collective du 15 (27) Août, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances croient devoir attirer l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur un côté exceptionnellement grave des désordres qui ont ensanglanté dernièrement la capitale et ses environs.

C'est la constatation par des données positives du fait que les bandes sauvages qui ont assommé les Arméniens, et pillé les maisons et les magasins où elles prétendaient chercher des agitateurs n'étaient point des ramassis accidentels de gens fanatisés, mais présentaient tous les indices d'une organisation spéciale connue de certains agents de l'autorité sinon dirigée par eux.

Les circonstances suivantes le prouvent :—

1. Ces bandes ont surgi simultanément sur différents points de la ville à la première nouvelle de l'occupation de la Banque par les révolutionnaires Arméniens, avant même que la police et la force armée aient paru sur les lieux du désordre. Or, la Sublime Porte reconnaît que des avis étaient parvenus d'avance à la police sur les projets criminels des agitateurs.

2. Une grande partie des gens qui composaient ces bandes étaient habillés et armés de la même manière.

3. Ils étaient conduits ou accompagnés par des Softas, des soldats, et même des officiers de la police, qui non seulement assistaient impassibles à leurs excès, mais y prenaient même parfois part.

4. On a vu quelques-uns de ces chefs de la sûreté publique distribuer à ces Bashi-Bazouks des gourdins et des couteaux, et leur indiquer aussi la direction à prendre pour trouver des victimes.

5. Ils ont pu circuler librement, et accomplir impunément leurs crimes sous les yeux des troupes et de leurs officiers, aux environs même du Palais Impérial.

6. Un des assassins arrêté par le Drogman d'une des Ambassades a déclaré que les soldats ne pouvaient pas l'arrêter. Conduit au Palais de Yildiz, il y a été accueilli par les gens de service comme une de leurs connaissances.

7. Deux Turcs employés par des Européens, qui avaient disparu pendant les deux jours des massacres, ont déclaré à leur retour qu'ils avaient été réquisitionnés et armés de couteaux et de gourdins pour tuer des Arméniens.

Ces faits se passent de commentaires.

La seule observation à y ajouter seraient qu'ils rappellent ceux qui ont affligé l'Anatolie, et qu'une force pareille qui surgit sous les yeux de l'autorité, et avec le concours de quelques-uns de ses agents devient une arme extrêmement dangereuse dont le tranchant dirigé aujourd'hui contre telle ou telle nationalité du pays peut être employée demain contre les colonies étrangères, ou se retourner contre ceux-là mêmes qui en ont toléré la création.

Les Représentants des Grandes Puissances ne se croient pas en droit de dissimuler ces faits à leurs Gouvernements, et estiment qu'il est de leur devoir de réclamer de la Sublime Porte que l'origine de cette organisation soit recherchée, et que ses inspirateurs et principaux acteurs soient découverts et punis avec la dernière rigueur.

Ils sont prêts, de leur côté, à faciliter l'enquête qui devra être ouverte en faisant connaître tous les faits qui leur ont été rapportés par des témoins oculaires, et qu'ils prennent soin de soumettre à une investigation spéciale.

Inclosure 2 in No. 180.

Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch.

IN obedience to your instructions, I expressed to-day to the Sultan's First Secretary your satisfaction at the good behaviour of the soldiers, which you yourself had witnessed, and the disappearance of the armed mob. I made the same communication to Izzet Bey. My message having been brought to the Sultan's notice, His Majesty gave the following reply, which was delivered to me by Izzet Bey. The Sultan is exceedingly obliged to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires for his kind message. His Imperial Majesty's predecessors, as well as himself, had constantly in view the welfare and prosperity of all their subjects whatever may be their religion. They, the Sultans, in becoming masters of this country, had respected and maintained the creeds and usages of the population, and did not try to bring about any changes. When the Bank attack was known by the Sultan His Majesty, who failed to realize the gravity of the situation, did not take the necessary steps at first for restoring order. Izzet Bey frankly admitted it.

Meanwhile a mob rushed to the spot, and availing themselves of the occurrence have perpetrated in the absence of the soldiers a series of misdeeds which His Majesty deplored more than anybody else. Moreover, the special Commission appointed by the Sultan to make inquiries about those outrages has made sad reports which have caused a deep sorrow to His Majesty. Every measure has been taken to have the culprits seized and severely punished. Relying upon the common interests which unite Turkey and England, and relying also upon the high sense of justice which animates Great Britain, the Sultan is convinced that England will before any other Power condemn the criminal designs of the Armenian revolutionary Committee, which are endangering seriously the peace in his Empire, and begs that England will kindly support among the Powers the idea that the Armenians cannot attain their object in persisting in similar criminal proceedings, but on the contrary they will forfeit all the sympathies of Europe.

After communicating to me the Sultan's answer, Tahsim Bey also informed me that all the measures taken by the authorities for securing public order and tranquillity are to be maintained, and that even some supplementary measures will be taken to secure that end. Izzet Bey also admitted to me that the massacre at Hasskeui had been frightful.

August 30, 1896.

No. 181.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 696.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, relating to the growth and activity of the Young Turkey party at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 181.

Consul Richards to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, August* 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice the undoubted fact that the tenets and aspirations of the Young Turkey party have gained ground considerably in this town and district during the last few months. There are several persons here who are well known as members of that party, while of course there are many more as to whose political sentiments there is considerable suspicion, though, owing to their discretion, nothing positive is known.

Copies of such revolutionary newspapers as the "Huriyet" and the "Meshveret" are not unfrequently finding their way even into certain strata of the official circle here, and, I am told, are eagerly read and commented on, being passed from hand to hand until their delapidated condition renders them almost illegible. One constantly hears of this or that person openly making depreciatory, not to say violent and abusive, remarks concerning the existing state of things and the necessity of remedial measures of the most drastic description, while the mere fact that such speakers are sure of a more or less sympathetic, though probably small, audience shows how much Turkish public opinion has changed of late with regard to certain matters which were rarely, if ever, discussed in those circles a year or so ago.

I have reason to believe that the Vali is beginning to realize the fact that there is a great deal of very genuine, if latent, disaffection here among Turkish officials of all grades. It is even whispered that the ever increasing measures of precaution which are being taken as regards the number and frequency of the military patrols which traverse the town in all directions day and night, are aimed as much at Turkish revolutionaries as at seditious Armenians, the smallness of whose numbers here renders any movement on their part in the last degree improbable. That there is considerable uneasiness, not to say very real apprehension at the konak, is proved by the fact that the powder magazine which forms part of the fortress on the top of Angora Hill has, for the last ten days or so, been closely watched and guarded by a body of troops amounting sometimes to thirty or forty men. Inasmuch as this building is of the most solid description, the only possible entrance to which is through a remarkably massive iron door which only sledge hammers could break open, it is reasonable to suppose that treachery as much as anything is suspected, or, in other words, that the authorities are not sure of their own co-religionists.

There may, of course, be some other explanation of which I have no knowledge, but this appears to be the most plausible.

I have no wish whatever, Sir, I need hardly say, to be an alarmist, or to attach undue importance to mere measures of precaution to which excess of zeal, or an over-anxiety to provide against all possible contingencies may have impelled the Governor-General.

Should I have reason to believe later on that the latter is the real explanation, and that there is no imminent danger of a Turkish outbreak, I shall not fail, of course, to communicate with you at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 181.

Consul Richards to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, August 27, 1896.*

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report that I hear on good authority that an anonymous letter has been addressed to His Majesty the Sultan by the chief "Young Turks" of Angora. In this document bitter complaint is made of the existing state of things, which is declared to be intolerable. Reference is then made to the project of reforms which has been elaborated for the six vilayets which constitute the so-called Armenia, and the Sultan is assured that reforms in all branches of the Administration are just as necessary here as in the above-mentioned provinces. Hope is then expressed that something will be done ere long before it be too late. I am informed that in places the language employed is extremely intemperate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 182.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 698.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, on the subject of the calling out of the Redifs in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Sivas, August 26, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to state that twice recently an order has been received from Constantinople directing the Redifs to be called out. The Wali replied that should this be done, he refused to be responsible for order in the province, owing to the state of restlessness at present existing. The order was rescinded. On another occasion the Wali ordered the calling-out of the Redifs for the Sandjak of Tokat. An attempt was made to do so, but the Redifs refused to obey, stating they were ready in case of war, but not otherwise. The Ferik Pasha at Tokat informed the Wali of this, and no further attempt has been made in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 183.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 699.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, inclosing translation of a telegram sent by the Armenians of that place to the Sultan, on the occasion of the resignation of the Armenian Patriarch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 183.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Sivas, August 24, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a telegram, with translation, sent to the Sultan on the resignation of the Armenian Patriarch. The telegram was obtained as follows.

The Vali sent for two leading Armenian merchants, and informed them that a telegram must be sent expressing their satisfaction on hearing of the appointment of the present Vice-Patriarch. They were also informed that it must not be known that it was suggested by the Government. The telegram was submitted to the Vali, who made some alterations and then approved of it. Thirty-two signatures were then obtained. It is unnecessary to say that the signatures were obtained only through fear, and several were prepared to refuse till it was pointed out to them that as such telegrams were a recognized farce frequently employed by the Turkish Government, and deceived no one, their refusal would only involve them in difficulties altogether unnecessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 183.

Telegram sent by the Armenians of Sivas to the Sultan.

(Translation.)

THE gratitude that we feel in our hearts for the kindness and consideration which we, your servants, the Armenians dwelling in Turkish dominions, have obtained for centuries past from father to son to the present day under the protection of the Imperial Turkish Throne, and your Royal justice, has left us with feelings too grateful for words. Since the suppression of the known disorders, the confidence and protection of life too which has been shown to us owing to the special mercy, grace, and benevolence of your Imperial Highness is a still further cause to us of joy and gratitude. Now, too, if Bartolomeo Effendi is appointed Vice-Patriarch it will be a great additional proof of the Royal mercy and favour shown to your faithful servants, and that the regrettable events completely vanishing from our memories, Mussulmans and Armenians will succeed in living together as fellow-countrymen in accordance with your Imperial wishes. For this reason, we have dared from obvious duty to offer our great thanks and gratitude.

No. 184.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 700.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas on the subject of the numbers of Armenians who have left Sivas since last November.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Sivas, August* 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to furnish exact numbers of Armenians who have left Sivas between last November and the present month.

Two hundred and ninety-three have obtained teskerehs, under protext of going to Constantinople or Samsoun, but have all left the country, and have gone, for the most part, to Russia or America. These left individually, leaving their families behind.

Forty-seven families have left, with teskerehs, for Smyrna and Constantinople.

About 150 men have left, without teskerehs, for Zeitoun, Samsoun, Trebizond, and Angora.

Four families have left, without teskerehs, on the chance of arranging their escape at the coast.

From these numbers it is evident that a very general desire exists to leave the country, and the Governor-General informed me that if whole families sold their property, and left altogether, he did not think there would be any objection on the part of the Turkish Government, and that he would write to Constantinople about it. Should it be possible to obtain such a permission, a very large number would avail themselves of it, and it would benefit not only those who went, but also those Armenians who remained, as owing to the difficulty of filling the places of the Armenians, who furnish 80 per cent. of the merchants and artizans, the Turks would be compelled to recognize their value, and would be more likely to treat those who remained with consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 185.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 701.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana on the subject of the situation there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 185.

Vice-Consul Massy to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Adana, August* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my telegraphic despatch to you this morning, that grave troubles were apprehended in every part of this province last week owing to the orders issued for calling out the 2nd Class (or Mustahfiz) of the Reserve.

In many cases the summons has not been obeyed, and in every case the order has been met with protests and increased discontent. Government officials were in fear for their own safety, and the situation of anarchy was about to reach a very sudden climax.

It must be said that the Government officials acted with judgment in the matter, doing their utmost to appease popular feeling. Some large assemblies of Moslems took place—friends of Reservists enrolled—but, in spite of numerous rumours which have caused fear amongst the whole European population, no actual authenticated excesses have, so far, been committed.

I shall inform you shortly as to the opinion I am able to form as to the general outlook in the immediate future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 185.

Vice-Consul Massy to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Adana, August* 18, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that I visited the Governor-General to-day in order to place many matters before him, and to ascertain, if possible, what the official opinion of the general state of this province might be.

His Excellency expressed to me his fear that the animosity existing between Christian and Moslem, as well as the fear which each at the present moment entertains that the other is about to reopen the disturbances of last winter, might at any moment cause further excesses.

He stated, in reply to my demand for proper precautionary measures to secure the safety of European inhabitants as well as of Christians in general, that everything was arranged, Adana town being divided into so many districts, and police and soldiery distributed permanently to each.

I thought it sounded ominous that all these precautions should have been already taken, and that his Excellency should so plainly state these facts, it being the general habit to assure one of the perfect quiet which reigns everywhere.

I could not help feeling that such an outbreak would not be viewed altogether with dismay, giving a pretext which may, perhaps, be looked for.

I have heard many rumours which are not reassuring. It is said that arms have been secretly distributed to Moslems by the Government, but I place no reliance on the truth of this statement so far. But it is certain that for several days past the Moslems have themselves made large purchases of weapons and ammunition.

One gunsmith—himself a Moslem—made the remark to a friend of mine, after seven or eight revolvers and ammunition had been sold in about half-an-hour, that "they only now await a pretext," referring to his Turkish customers.

About a fortnight ago orders were received at Adana from Constantinople, as reported by me, "to be ready," as further Armenian risings were expected. At the same time, as if to goad Moslems into utter desperation, the calling out of further classes of Reserves was announced.

The result would appear to be a very probable outbreak very shortly. Next Friday is mentioned as a likely day, while the 28th is also spoken of.

I hope that these predictions may not be realized, but there is no doubt we are passing through an acute crisis such as has not been in this province up to now, this being chiefly the case in Adana town, although rumours are afloat of an absurd nature that a combined onslaught is to be made by the Armenians of Hadjin, Zeitoun, Sis, and other places.

Up to the present no excesses have been committed anywhere, so far as there has been time for reports to come in, but it is said that the Moslems announced, in reply to the call for the assembly of the Mustahfiz, that they would not leave their wives and children behind in the hands of the Christian population, and that they must settle with the latter before starting.

There can be no doubt that the calling out of the Mustahfiz at such a season, with the country already denuded by other Reserves of its chief labouring male population, is a cruel mistake, if unintentional, and a base crime if the motive be to goad the Moslems into further acts of hatred towards the Christians. In either case the result is likely to be the same, viz., bloodshed and pillage.

I have spoken as forcibly as possible to the Governor-General, who assures me that he will put down forcibly any attempt to break the peace, but it is to be feared that the usual Turkish evidence will be forthcoming to prove the first offender to be a Christian. The consequent events are easy to imagine, and his Excellency's assurances will certainly be fully realized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 186.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 703.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, on the subject of the Druse rising in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 186.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Damascus, August 12, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that the sickness among the troops continues unabated, as on an average forty sick come in per diem.

The Commission has returned to Damascus without having effected anything, but it is stated that they sent a telegram to the Sultan advising an immediate settlement of the question on account of the state of health of the troops, and that His Imperial Majesty sent a reply to the effect that he granted a complete pardon to the Druses. If this be true, and it is most positively asserted, I do not understand why the Commission did not act on this declaration of clemency, but it is possible that the Commission which was in the first instance, I am convinced, sent to inquire into the respective statements and recriminations of the ex-Vali, Osman Pasha, and Sheikh Shibli El Atrash, has been directed to leave the matter in the hands of the Mushir.

This view receives confirmation from the fact that the Mushir has granted an amnesty to ten Druse Sheikhs and their followers on the condition that the Sheikhs give guarantees for good behaviour. These Druses are now returning or about to return to their villages.

The Mushir himself has been attacked by the fever prevalent among the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 186.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Damascus, August 18, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that, though the local authorities continually spread rumours to the effect that the Hauran question is settled, it appears that this is very far from being the case.

The Mushir has offered an amnesty to all Druses who come in and submit to the Government, but though, as I previously reported, some Sheikhs have come in with their followers, all the Druses of the northern part of the Jebel and of the Salkhad district refuse to trust to the promises of the Ottoman Government, and especially protest against military conscription, which the Government no doubt wishes to enforce.

The Government is, indeed, very anxious to bring this matter to a termination, for the troops are losing large numbers daily from enteric fever and dysentery. During the last ten days upwards of 500 sick have been sent back to Damascus.

But the Druses apparently do not consider themselves beaten, and they are certainly not disheartened. A short time ago a Government provision train was raided by Druses about 25 miles from Damascus and the corn was destroyed. It is supposed that the reason for this raid was to prevent any Druses from surrendering to the Government. The western Druses, *i.e.*, those who reside in Suedah and district, are, however, always more ready to surrender than their brethren of the wilder and more mountainous parts.

It is stated that the Mushir has demanded to be replaced, as he is too ill to continue to hold the command. Memdouh Pasha, who will probably succeed him, has left for Salkhad with twelve battalions in order to bring to reason a large number of Druses who have returned thither.

The position on the whole is assuming an unfavourable aspect for the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 187.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 704.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday's Turkish papers published an official communiqué stating that an Imperial Iradé had been issued constituting a special Commission to try and judge summarily without appeal, and in open Court, the persons guilty of taking part in the recent disturbances.

The Commission is composed of:—

President: His Excellency Lebib Effendi, Procureur Impérial.

Members: His Excellency Hikmet Bey, Nazhar Effendi, Hilmi Effendi, and Yorghindis Effendi, members of the Court of Cassatiou; his Excellency Khalid Bey and Toros Effendi, members of the Court of Appeal; his Excellency Arif Bey, President of the Second Correctional Court of Pera; Keupelian Effendi, member of the Pera Court of First Instance; and Cagliari Effendi, member of the Second Commercial Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 188.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 705.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram which I addressed to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 26th instant, directly after I had heard of the disturbances in Constantinople, in which I stated that I held the Ottoman Government responsible for any damages to British subjects which might result therefrom.

I have also the honour to inclose copy of the telegram which I received from Tewfik Pasha in reply.

As I understand that there will be a great number of claims from British subjects against the Turkish Government for losses sustained during the last few days, it is perhaps fortunate that we shall be able in presenting them to appeal to so distinct and early a warning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Mr. Herbert to Tewfik Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 26 Août, 1896.*

JE prie votre Excellence de faire prendre les mesures les plus énergiques et immédiates pour la protection des Chrétiens à Constantinople contre la populace Musulmane. La troupe et la police restent absolument impassibles devant les meurtres et les pillages et ne font rien pour les empêcher.

Je fais les réserves les plus formelles à l'égard des dommages que les désordres pourraient entraîner pour mes nationaux et j'en rends dès à présent le Gouvernement Impérial responsable.

Le Chargé d'Affaires d'Angleterre.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Tewfik Pasha to Mr. Herbert.

(Télégraphique.) *Yildiz, le 27 Août*, 1896.

REÇU télégramme. Le Gouvernement Impérial a pris toutes les mesures nécessaires pour la protection de tous contre les méfaits dont les agitateurs Arméniens sont les auteurs.

No. 189.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 706.) *Therapia, September* 3, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a very interesting report by Mr. Max Müller on the damage done to British premises in Galata.

Mr. Max Müller, who personally inspected these premises, rendered most valuable services by removing the surviving Armenian employés of British subjects and handing them over, under a guarantee, to the Military Commandant of Galata.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Report by Mr. Max Müller.

ON arriving at the Consulate on Friday morning I found numerous English subjects, all waiting with complaints and requests. Some wished us to make an inspection of their pillaged premises, others wished to know what they were to do with the Armenians who were still hidden in their houses or shops; whether they ought to deliver them up, or whether, if they kept them, we would be answerable for their safety.

I accordingly requested Mr. Thompson to accompany me to see the Pasha or Military Commander of Galata. I told the Pasha that the object of my visit was twofold, firstly, to assure the lives of any Armenians who might still be hidden on English premises, and, secondly, to secure the safety of any valuables left in English houses that had been pillaged.

In order to carry out my object successfully I must be accompanied by a Turkish officer authorized to place sentinels wherever I might consider it necessary. The Pasha, who was most courteous and obliging, at once acceded to my request, and said that he would be personally responsible for the lives of any Armenians I might either deliver over to his keeping or leave in English houses confided to the care of a Turkish sentinel.

The first house he visited was a large new house on the quay in the very centre of the scene of the greatest disorders.

The house, which had not been touched, is occupied by Messrs. Gilchrist and Walker, Coal Merchants, and the Glamorgan Coal Company. Inside we found six Armenians in the employ of these two firms; we took their names so as to be able to identify them, and left them in the house, placing two Turkish sentinels at the door.

We next visited the Kiuchuk Oghlou khan, in which there are numerous apartments, among others four English offices, belonging respectively to Messrs. Ridley, Shipping Agents, Messrs. Swan, Shipping Agents, Messrs. Macnamara, Commission Agents, and Cumming, Ship Chandler. This khan seemed to have been the object of the special fury of the mob the previous day. Mr. Thompson, who accompanied

me, had seen the attack. He told me that a Mollah came out of the neighbouring mosque and encouraged the mob by chanting a prayer, which was taken up by the fanatical crowd.

As in most cases, the mob attacked the iron doors with a battering ram, and the unfortunate Armenians, seeing their last hour approaching, began firing out of window in sheer desperation. The soldiers thereupon joined in, returning the fire. In this case a soldier climbed up into a minaret overlooking the roof of the house and fired at the poor wretches below him.

The pillage and slaughter in this house seemed at first sight to have been most thorough. There was not a door, chair, table, or drawer left intact; papers, broken glass, samples of goods strewed the floors, soaked in blood. The whole way down the staircase one could see the marks where the battered bodies had been dragged down, and a small room just under the roof, where, apparently, the final stand had been made, was a gruesome sight. On the roof also were pools of blood. Fortunately, the four English safes had all resisted the attempts of the pillagers to break into them. They were dented all over, and the locks broken, but apparently their contents must have been safe. We pointed this out to the Turkish officer, and told him he must put sentinels to guard these safes.

It is a curious fact that in spite of all the search we made, we overlooked four Armenians who were still in the house, and who had escaped from the mob by hiding under the roof. They betrayed their presence on Saturday by banging a door, and were then taken out and handed over to the protection of the police. I visited them at the police-station with their employers, and took their names. Their appearance after their terrible fright and a seventy-two hours' fast was piteous in the extreme, and they hardly could answer the simple questions we put to them. Their employers gave them money to obtain food.

We next went to a Maltese ship chandler, whose shop had been pillaged. Passing through an evil-smelling, blood-stained yard, we climbed up into a loft, and there hidden behind boxes we found three Armenians. In view of the threatening attitude of the mob outside, and the impossibility of defending the already pillaged premises, I thought it best, after taking their names, to accompany the three men to the police-station for safe custody.

We took Armenians out of two other English houses in the neighbourhood, where the proprietors were anxious to open their shops, and visited some small shops that had been broken into in the hunt for Armenians, and a certain amount of damage done and goods stolen, though nowhere was the destruction as complete as in the Kiuchuk Oghlou khan. In all cases where necessary we placed sentinels. The engineering works of Bond and Co. had stood a regular siege on Thursday. Mr. Herbert saw the firing from the windows. I was told there had been a considerable massacre here. There was a certain amount of blood about, and one saw traces of blood on the window sill where the mob had thrown out the bodies. The damage, except in the accountant's office, where everything was wrecked, was small, owing to the difficulty of doing any damage to the large engines and iron tools. The safe had also successfully resisted the efforts of the mob.

I had intended to continue the search in the afternoon, but I had hardly sat down to lunch at the Club (Cercle d'Orient in Pera) when I was startled by a tremendous explosion close by, followed by a rush of carriages along the street and the clatter of the iron shutters coming down. I ran round by the back streets to the Embassy, and found that a bomb had been thrown from an empty house just opposite our gates at the troops passing back from the Selamlik. The bomb exploded in the air, and no one was hurt. I stayed for some time in the hope of seeing the authors of the outrage captured, but it appears they were not caught till about 5.

The next day we continued our search of English houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the Bank, visiting the offices of Mr. Pears (a prominent lawyer), Mr. Vere (the representative of Armstrong), and offices of certain stockbrokers and bankers. In each case we took the names of those in the employment of the English firms, and left a sentinel at the door, except where, in my opinion, there was danger in leaving Armenians in the house, and then I handed them over to the Pasha of Galata under guarantee. In the case of strange Armenians who had fled into the houses for refuge, we tried as far as possible to restore them to their employers.

There can be no doubt that a large amount of damage has been done to the property of English subjects, and the claims for indemnities will be very numerous. They will, however, have to be carefully examined into, as the Levantine English and Maltese trader is not above making a bit out of the pillage of his shop. One man

whose office I visited, and where the damage done might possibly run into a few hundreds, has sent in a claim for 6,320*l.* Another, whose safe bears no marks of violence, says that it was broken open and valuable papers stolen.

I propose when I visit the prisons to ascertain whether any of the Armenians I handed over to the Turkish authorities are still in custody, and, provided they are not detained on any charge, shall induce them to return to their employers.

Therapia, August 31, 1896.

No. 190.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 707.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch, giving some account of the measures taken by the Turkish authorities to put a stop to the disturbances which have taken place in Constantinople.

Mr. Marinitch also makes some suggestions as to further steps which ought to be advantageously taken by the Government. These measures seem to me to be judicious, and I propose to bring them to the notice of my colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 190.

Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch.

MY information tends to show that more than 300 Mussulmans have been arrested for complicity in the massacres, and will be judged by the Extraordinary Commission which the Sultan has instituted for that purpose. Wholesale arrests of Armenians have continued since the outbreak. Among the measures adopted by the Government was the bringing of two battalions each from Ismid and Adrianople; of these, three were at once sent up to Yildiz, where they remain. Marshal Shakir Pasha has been appointed Military Commandant of Galata and [?] Pasha, General of Brigade, in the same capacity at Pera. The civil authorities continue unchanged.

According to the Grand Vizier 120 Turkish soldiers have been killed and 250 wounded. In certain places the mob was led by Imams, and in one or two places by Softas. Up to the present moment no Turkish soldiers or officials have been arrested for complicity in the massacres. The measures taken by the Government are good, but do not answer the exigencies of the situation. The continual arrests of the Armenians by the police already alluded to are carried out in the hope that the dangerous men will then be arrested and further disturbances stopped. The Turks are now conscious of the gravity of the situation and fear that if fresh disorders take place the authorities will be unable to restrain the Mussulman mob. The Christian population is in a state of panic, and the Turks and even the troops are so irritated that no one can vouch for the preservation of security.

Before concluding, I venture to suggest the adoption of two measures which though political in character may effectually restore security. The first is that the Sultan should issue a Proclamation to be read in the mosques, explaining that the disturbances are the work of only a few revolutionaries, while the great mass of the Armenians is faithful to the Sultan, and ordering Mussulmans to respect the lives and property of Christians. The second is the dismissal of the *locum tenens* and the National Council which have been imposed on the Armenian nation against its will, and that the free election of a Patriarch and Council be allowed in accordance with the privileges enjoyed from time immemorial by the Armenians.

No. 191.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 708.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 3, 1896.

IT is difficult to form an accurate estimate of the loss of life during the recent disturbances, but it is the general opinion of sober-minded and well-informed persons that between 5,000 and 6,000 Armenians lost their lives.

On the Pera side the mob pillaged the greater part of the quarter of Galata, chiefly composed of the business premises of European merchants, and killed the porters and other servants. Further up the Golden Horn is the Jewish village of Hasskeuy, with an Armenian quarter called Halij Oghlou. This was visited by Mr. Max Müller, who reports that all the Armenian houses were pillaged, and that the Turkish officers estimated the loss of life at 600 out of a population of 5,000.

He found about 700 refugees in the church, whose solid construction had enabled it to resist all assaults. The attack was made by bands of Lazes and other wild Asiatics, who came from Kassim-Pasha, and were directed by the Jews to the Armenian houses. In Kassim-Pasha itself, even the Palace officials admit that the slaughter was terrible, and it is said that women and children were not spared. The dead were partly buried in a cemetery on the outskirts of Pera, where the French Chargé d'Affaires counted upwards of 450 corpses in one day, and partly carried to Stamboul in carts, of which it is said that more than 150 passed across the bridge. The captain of a Russian steamer saw a large barge in the Marmora loaded with dead bodies, which she proceeded to throw into the sea.

The details of what occurred in Stamboul are still very incomplete, but it is agreed that Koum-Kapou, the residence of the Patriarchal *locum tenens*, was carefully guarded and the greatest massacre took place in the adjoining quarter called Psamatia, which has been visited by Mr. Young, Third Secretary in this Embassy.

It would appear that here, as in Galata, the Armenians were the original aggressors. Four men established themselves at about 11 on Wednesday morning in the school-house of a monastery called Salu Monastir, from which they proceeded to throw bombs, and maintained an obstinate defence until midnight, when one committed suicide, and the remaining three fled, and were shot by the troops. Bombs were also thrown from ten houses close by, which were almost destroyed by the explosives. The whole quarter was deserted and occupied by Turkish troops. Mr. Young was unable to speak to Armenians except in the presence of Turks, and hence heard only the official version; but as the Officer in Command told him that 640 Armenians had been killed, it may be safely assumed that this number was not above the truth. It would appear that a large number of the inhabitants got wind of what was going to happen early on Wednesday morning, and those who had the means left for the islands and Cadikeui. It is also stated that a terrible massacre took place in a little-known Armenian district near the Phanar, or Greek quarter of Stamboul.

The better known parts of Stamboul were scoured by a mob similar to that which attacked Galata. All Armenians found in the streets were killed, warehouses and shops were broken into and looted, the Armenian porters of the railway terminus were seized by the police and handed over to the mob, who promptly murdered them; the residence of the American missionaries was besieged though not entered, but the houses of many rich Armenians scattered through the Turkish quarter were ransacked and their occupants disposed of.

As far as is known, the dead are almost exclusively Armenians of the lower classes, who came to Constantinople in great numbers, particularly from the Province of Sivas, to gain a living as porters, dock labourers, caretakers in offices, &c. As in the provincial massacres, the mob were most methodical in their proceedings, and evidently wished to spare all but Gregorian Armenians. A few Greeks were killed, doubtless by mistake, and it is said that one Italian subject also met his death. Another French subject was attacked and half killed before he could explain his nationality; but as soon as he made himself understood, he was released with many apologies for the misunderstanding. As far as I know at present no British subject has been killed excepting a naturalized Armenian employé of the British Post Office in Stamboul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 192.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September 7.*)

(No. 709.) *Therapia, September 3, 1896.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 359 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, while returning from a meeting of the six Representatives at Buyukdéré in the Embassy launch, the Italian Ambassador and I witnessed the murder of two innocent Armenians by the Turkish soldiers posted in the block-house almost adjoining the grounds of the British Embassy at Therapia.

I at once dispatched a telegram, copy inclosed, to the Sultan's Secretary, requesting him to inform the Sultan of what I had seen, and landed six armed men from the "Imogene" to protect the Embassy, as I saw no reason why the Turkish soldiers should not shortly turn their attention to the Armenian servants in the employ of members of the Embassy.

In the course of the evening I received a telegram from Tewfik Pasha, copy of which is also inclosed, stating that the two Armenians in question had first attacked the soldiers.

As I knew this to be false, I addressed a further telegram to his Excellency (copy inclosed), demanding the change of the military post, an inquiry into the murder, and the punishment of the guilty soldiers.

The Italian Ambassador and the French Chargé d'Affaires, whose Embassies are also near the block-house, supported these demands at the Porte through their Dragomans.

The following day the post was changed, and Mr. Marinitch was informed on Sunday at the Palace that the soldiers would be punished, Izzet Bey admitting that they were guilty.

I am informed on good authority that the poor men who were killed were honourable, well-to-do Armenians, who had nothing whatever to do with the revolutionists. They had gone up with their wives and families to Therapia for safety, but having been told to leave by the police, they went on to Buyukdéré, and having engaged rooms there they drove back to Therapia to bring up their families. As they passed the guard-house they were shot by the sentries without warning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 192.

Mr. Herbert to Izzet Bey.

(Télégraphique.) *Therapia, le 28 Août, 1896.*

EN continuation du télégramme adressé ce matin au Sultan, je vous prie d'informer Sa Majesté que je viens de voir, de mes propres yeux, les soldats Turcs stationnés au block-house à côté de mon Ambassade à Therapia massacrer deux Arméniens qui passaient.

Inclosure 2 in No. 192.

Tewfik Pasha to Mr. Herbert.

(Télégraphique.)

EN réponse au télégramme que vous avez adressé ce matin à son Excellence Izzet Bey, je viens informer que les deux Arméniens y mentionnés avaient commencé par menacer de leurs armes sans aucun motif un voiturier de Kireteh Bournou, sur lequel ils avaient même fait feu. Ayant tourné leurs armes et tiré aussi sur les soldats et une patrouille accourue sur les lieux aux bruits des détonations, ceux-ci furent obligés de riposter, tuant ainsi les deux Arméniens dont il s'agit.

Inclosure 3 in No. 192.

Mr. Herbert to Tewfik Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Therapia, le 29 Août, 1896.*

J'AI reçu le télégramme que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser au sujet du meurtre des deux Arméniens par les soldats du poste à côté de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à Therapia.

Les explications données par les soldats sont absolument fausses. L'Ambassadeur d'Italie, l'Attaché Militaire de Russie, et moi-même, ayant été témoins oculaires de ce qui s'est passé.

Je demande une enquête, le changement du personnel de ce poste militaire, et la punition des coupables.

No. 193.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September 7.*)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de lui communiquer ci-joint copies de deux télégrammes qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement relativement aux désordres Arméniens de Constantinople.

L'Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres, le 4 Septembre, 1896.

Inclosure 1 in No. 193.

Sublime Porte to Anthopoulo Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 3 Septembre, 1896.*

LE Gouvernement Impérial a décidé de procéder sans retard au jugement des révolutionnaires qui, impliqués dans les derniers désordres de Constantinople, ont été arrêtés, ainsi que de ceux des individus qui, s'étant permis de tuer, sans motif, des gens paisibles et de se livrer à des actes de pillage, ont été arrêtés par la police; il leur sera infligée, suivant le cas, la peine la plus sévère édictée par la loi; ceux des agents de police qui, ayant vu les malfaiteurs commettre des crimes, ne les en ont pas empêchés, ou qui ont toléré ces méfaits, seront déférés également à la justice et punis d'une manière exemplaire; comme, cependant, le jugement de ces personnes par les Tribunaux ordinaires pourrait entraîner des retards, attendu qu'il passerait par les voies légales, telles que: appel et cassation, un Tribunal extraordinaire a été institué uniquement pour examen de ces procès dont le jugement aura lieu en public; il rendra ses sentences en dernier ressort. La plupart des méfaits commis dans les derniers jours ayant été perpétrés par des individus appartenant à diverses classes qui, venus du dehors, sont portés à des actes séditieux et au pillage, la police a reçu l'ordre de les renvoyer dans leur pays natal.

Inclosure 2 in No. 193.

Sublime Porte to Anthopoulo Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 3 Septembre, 1896.*

LE Tribunal extraordinaire dont je vous ai annoncé l'institution, a tenu aujourd'hui sa première séance. Les dossiers de 143 individus, tant Musulmans qu'Arméniens, impliqués dans les derniers désordres, ont été remis au parquet; seize des personnes arrêtées comme ayant pris part aux troubles ont été interrogées et douze témoins entendus. Les autorités Impériales ont arrêté des révolutionnaires Arméniens déguisés en Mollahs et en soldats.

Grâce aux mesures adoptées par le Gouvernement Impérial, l'ordre et la tranquillité continuent à régner tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces.

No. 194.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 389.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 7, 1896, 12·30 P.M.*

IN reply to the collective representation respecting the maintenance of order in the provinces, reported to your Lordship by Mr. Herbert in his telegram No. 380 of the 3rd instant, the Sublime Porte gave assurances that stringent orders had been issued to the provincial authorities to prevent disturbances.

Mr. Herbert sent a telegraphic Circular to the Consuls in Anatolia, asking if such orders were really received and executed.

Up to the present, I have received satisfactory replies from Smyrna, Angora, Trebizond, Erzeroum, and Sivas. The Acting British Consul at Aleppo reports that the Vali has informed him that as long as the authors of massacres in the vilayet remain unpunished order cannot be restored, and that he has telegraphed to the Grand Vizier, saying that, since his suggestions are not even taken into consideration, he must decline all responsibility for anything that may occur.

No. 195.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 8.)

Sir, *Admiralty, September 5, 1896.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ship "Collingwood" dated the 20th August, relative to the state of affairs at Alexandretta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. D. AWDRY.

Inclosure in No. 195.

Captain Marrack to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

"Collingwood," at Sea, Lat. 35° 43′ N., Long. 31° 36′ E.
Sir, *August 20, 1896.*

SINCE my letter of the 20th July from Beirut, I have the honour to report that I have visited Jaffa, Haifa, and Tripoli, remaining about three days at each port. At the latter place I painted the wooden crosses, &c., in the "Victoria" cemetery, and found the cemetery itself in good order.

I returned to Alexandretta on the 7th instant, and on Sunday the 16th received your telegram ordering me to sail to-day for Canea to relieve Her Majesty's ship "Hood," and I accordingly left Alexandretta at 5·15 this morning.

Politically, there is but little change on the Syrian coast. Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice is still at Birejik, endeavouring to persuade those Christians who escaped massacre to return to their former homes. Rumours of his death frequently reach Alexandretta. At Aleppo there is some unquietness owing to the fear of the Redifs that they will be again called out on account of the troubles in Crete. The Turkish soldiers, who only threatened the Armenians before, now threaten the Greeks also, saying that "one dirt is the same as another dirt." The desultory sort of warfare between the Druses and Turks in the Hauran district, at the back of Damascus, still goes on. Some troops that were being marched through the streets at Jaffa about the time of my visit there, to embark for Beirut, to proceed to the Hauran, were singing "Death to all Christians" as their marching song. I have heard from several sources that so far the Turks have gained no advantage whatever over the Druses, in spite of their statements to the contrary, and that the reverse has been the case on every occasion of an encounter.

At Haifa great satisfaction was felt at the prospect of the railway to Damascus being proceeded with in September or October. Eight kilom. only were completed when quarrels among the Directors of the Company stopped the work. It is now

publicly stated that the contractor was bribed by the French Company, who own the line from Beirut to Damascus, to foster these quarrels.

Brigandage round Alexandretta is not so rife as it was, but the state of the town itself is too unsettled to allow of any leave being given there to the crew. Two murders took place during the three weeks I was cruising, and rows between the soldiers, still unpaid (who steal everything they want to eat from the Bazaar) and the inhabitants, are of daily occurrence. The corn in the district is all heaped up in the fields waiting for the tax-gatherer to come and take his 11½ per cent. in kind. This is a grand opportunity for the soldiers, who sally forth in the night and steal as much as they like, bringing it to the Bazaar for sale the next morning. If the owner is guarding his grain they do not hesitate to use their side-arms on him, and a man who, although severely cut about the head, managed to secure a soldier and take him before the Kaïmakam, got no satisfaction, the soldier being locked up for the day and released in the evening.

About a fortnight ago things reached such a pass that the Kaïmakam sent a message to one of the British residents to try and borrow 100 Medjidiehs from him to buy bread for the troops, who, he stated, had threatened to riot and to loot the town unless he got them bread immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. MARRACK.

No. 196.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury:—(Received September 8.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et, pour faire suite à ses précédentes communications, relatives aux affaires Arméniennes, a l'honneur de lui communiquer le télégramme suivant qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement:—

"Le Tribunal extraordinaire a jugé hier les cinq Arméniens prévenus d'avoir tiré de la pharmacie du Dr. Meziki des coups de feu sur les troupes Impériales. La culpabilité de l'un d'eux nommé Melkon ayant été établie par les dépositions des témoins, il a été condamné aux travaux forcés à perpétuité. Les quatre autres ont été acquittés."

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 7 Septembre, 1896.

No. 197.

Sir H. Wyndham to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Sinaia, September 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Sturdza, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, called upon me yesterday morning by appointment, and after explaining to me that the King's Government had strong objections to Armenian or other refugees from Constantinople being disembarked on Roumanian territory, which would inevitably cause internal trouble and possible complications between Roumania and Turkey, his Excellency handed to me the note of which the inclosed is a copy. In this note he complains of the surreptitious landing of nineteen Armenians at Sulina by the British ship "Bernard," expresses a fear that two other British ships which have ascended the Danube may endeavour to land the refugees they have on board, and states that he has heard that about 300 more refugees are on their way, in British ships, to Roumania. He sets forth in detail his objections to the landing of refugees from Turkey, and begs me to assist him in preventing their arrival, and in advising British ship-masters to take them away again.

I observed to M. Sturdza that the action he was taking in refusing hospitality to these people, who were flying from Constantinople to escape massacre, would create a very painful impression, and I cited the humane conduct of Greece in having recently received on her shores some thousand of Cretan refugees, and I also observed that the Government must surely have troops and police in sufficient force at the Danube ports to

maintain order. I also remarked that, although Armenians were the victims to-day, the turn might come of Greeks and Roumanians at Constantinople, or at any rate in Macedonia, where there were said to be many Roumanian Cutzo-Vlachs.

M. Sturdza replied that the impression his action might create was indifferent to him; that his first duty was to maintain order and to prevent disturbances arising in his own country, which would be certain to ensue with the Turks and Armenians already established in Roumanian ports, if numbers of Armenian refugees were allowed to land. His Excellency added, "Let the British ships take the refugees to Greek ports, or to any ports except Roumanian."

My German colleague called upon me this morning, and told me that M. Sturdza had seen him and the Austrian Minister yesterday morning before he had seen me, and that they had both expressed to him the painful feeling his refusal to receive these refugees would excite, but evidently and unfortunately their remarks had made no impression upon him.

I have communicated with Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Galatz, and with Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Constantza on this subject, and have the honour to inclose copies of my despatches to these gentlemen. I have also telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 197.

M. Sturdza to Sir H. Wyndham.

Bucarest, le Août, 1896.

M. l'Envoyé,

CERTAINS faits regrettables, commis pendant les derniers jours par des bâtiments marchands Anglais dans les eaux Roumaines du Danube, m'obligent à avoir recours à votre Excellence, pour les faire cesser et empêcher leur renouvellement.

A la suite des troubles qui ont eu lieu à Constantinople, des navires de commerce Anglais ont pris à bord des réfugiés Arméniens qu'ils ont débarqués, et s'efforcent encore de débarquer sur le territoire Roumain sans autorisation aucune et contre l'avis des autorité locales.

Le navire de commerce Anglais "Bernard" fut le premier qui, passant le 2 Septembre (N. S.) devant le port de Sulina et ralentissant sa marche, lança du milieu du canal ses chaloupes vers terre et jeta sur le territoire Roumain dix-neuf individus de nationalité Arménienne non munis de passeports. Les autorités Maritimes Royales ne réussirent pas à faire rembarquer ces individus par le navire, qui a repris son cours vers Braïla, où il se trouve actuellement pour prendre une cargaison de blé.

Le 3 Septembre deux autres navires de commerce Anglais, le "Lynton" et le "Grenville," ont essayé de débarquer d'autres individus de nationalité Arménienne. Comme les autorités Royales avaient pris des mesures contre le renouvellement d'une surprise, ces navires ont dû renoncer à débarquer à Sulina les individus qu'ils avaient à bord, mais tâcheront probablement de les déposer sur un autre point de notre territoire.

Ces faits deviennent d'une gravité exceptionnelle, car des navires marchands entrant dans le port de Sulina annoncent l'arrivée dans nos ports de plusieurs autres navires Anglais avec plus de 300 Arméniens.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi, mon auguste Maître, n'est pas appelé à porter un jugement sur les événements récents qui ont eu lieu dans la capitale de l'Empire Ottoman; mais il a le devoir de veiller que les troubles et les désordres de Constantinople ne se transporte pas à Sulina ou sur un autre point du territoire Roumain. Le Royaume de Roumanie a été et veut rester un élément d'ordre et de tranquillité dans la tourmente qui agite l'Orient Européen. C'est son droit et, j'ajouterai, son devoir.

Il est incontestable que les Arméniens de l'Empire Ottoman sont organisés en Comités Révolutionnaires. En Roumanie ces Comités ont une action occulte et leurs menées ont attiré depuis plusieurs mois d'autant plus l'attention du Gouvernement Royal, que des rixes sanglantes ont eu lieu, l'automne passé, à Soulina entre les manœuvres Arméniens et Turcs, et que des essais ont dû être repoussés ayant pour but de former dans différents points du Royaume des centres d'agitation Arménienne, mis en contact avec les Comités Révolutionnaires du dehors.

Le Gouvernement Royal ne peut tolérer que son territoire devienne le foyer de menées en état de troubler la paix et la sécurité intérieure du pays, ni ne peut admettre que les relations normales qu'il entretient avec le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan, soient troublées artificiellement en laissant s'installer en Roumanie les mécontents de la Turquie.

Le Gouvernement Royal a pris les mesures les plus sévères pour empêcher le renouvellement de faits tels que ceux que je viens d'exposer à votre Excellence, mais je vous prie, M. l'Envoyé, de vouloir bien venir d'urgence en aide au Gouvernement Royal, par l'entremise de vos Agents Consulaires établis sur différents points maritimes du territoire Roumain, afin que les navires Anglais s'abstiennent dorénavant de débarquer ou d'essayer de débarquer en Roumanie des Arméniens ou d'autres mécontents de l'Empire Ottoman, et de donner son concours, afin que le navire de commerce "Bernard" reprenne à son retour à Soulina les individus débarqués par surprise et contre les Règlements qui régissent l'entrée des étrangers dans le royaume.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) D. STURDZA.

No. 198.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 714.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 5*, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the text of a Central News telegram which was published in the "Daily News" and many other English newspapers on the 31st ultimo, relating to an alleged conflict between British sailors and the Turkish mob during the recent disturbances in Constantinople. As I have already had the honour to report in my telegram No. 387 of to-day, there is not a word of truth in this story, and it is perhaps unnecessary for me to point out, that the sailors and marines from Her Majesty's ships in the Bosphorus were only landed for the protection of British subjects and Government premises.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 198.

Extract from the "Daily News" of August 31, 1896.

IT has transpired that when the British blue-jackets were marching from guard-ships to the Embassy, they came across a mob of Turkish fanatics brutally maltreating some Armenians. On seeing the sailors the Armenians rushed to them for protection, which was readily given. The blue-jackets placed the poor wretches behind them and kept the murderous mob back, striking blows with great heartiness with the but ends of their carbines. As soon as this news reached the Yildiz-Kiosk great excitement prevailed, and the Porte complained to the British Embassy, remarking *inter-alia* that the English sailors should remember they were in a foreign country. Mr. Herbert, British Chargé d'Affaires, replied that, given the same condition of things, English sailors would do exactly the same thing. They would not see the Armenians maltreated, and would protect them if the Turkish troops did not do so.

No. 199.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 717.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 8*, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, reporting on the attack made on an Armenian village named Capo-Aziz and the steps which he took to restore order and to prevent forced conversions to Islam.

I have conveyed to Major Bulman my approval of his action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

Sivas, August 28, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that some time ago the village Capo-Aziz, consisting of 100 houses, and from 500 to 600 inhabitants, was attacked by bands of Kisilbash and Lazes. The priest, one woman, and eight men were killed, and the village looted. The villagers fled to the mountains and remained five days. They then returned, and to save their lives became Mussulman, except three families. An order was sent by the Wali directing that they should be considered as Armenians, and not allowed to change their religion. I sent an agent to report how far this order had been carried out. From his report it appears that the church has been converted into a mosque, the altar and pictures removed, and an Imam had the keys, and chanted the Muezzin from a temporary structure erected beside the church as a substitute for a minaret. The inhabitants had also assumed Moslem names. I requested the Wali to order the removal of the Imam from the village, as it is wholly Armenian, and that another priest should be sent. To this he consented, stating that the church should be restored to its former state, and necessary protection given. The incident may be regarded as closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 200.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 718.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 8, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 517 of the 3rd July last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput recounting representations which he made to Shakir Pasha concerning the state of Malattia and Hekim Han.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

Kharput, August 17, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that during Shakir Pasha's stay at Malattia I handed him Memoranda upon the following questions, inviting, at the same time, his good offices with a view to their satisfactory solution :—

Hekim Han.

The forced conversion of the entire Armenian population, consisting now in upwards of thirty families, to Islamism. The tyranny under which they laboured at the hands of the village Mudir, Carab Aga Oglou Mustafa, whose removal I recommended; and I suggest verbally that a Commission should be sent to inquire into the condition of the converts, and, if necessary, take measures to insure their unmolested return to their ancient faith.

Monastery of Lusaboritch.

The large Armenian Monastery of Lusaboritch, situated near the town of Malattia, was abandoned by the Monks at the time of the disturbances; some servants who were left in charge were killed by the Moslems and the monastery was pillaged. It was subsequently seized by a Turk, named Mehmet Tayir, who installed himself therein and turned the church into a Tekké. The same man, together with his associates, reaped, it is said, quite recently the harvests sown by Armenians in the lands belonging to the monastery in question.

Suspension of Trade between Malattia and the Villages of the Malattia Sandjak.

Among the Armenian population of Malattia upwards of 500 families are dependent for their daily bread upon the industry exercised by artisans—such as masons, shoemakers, tailors, carpenters, and blacksmiths—among the various villages, numbering from 150 to 200, comprised within the Sandjak of Malattia. Subsequent to the outbreak of disturbances in the sandjak referred to, the townsfolk were unable to circulate among the villages owing to the hostility of the Mussulman peasantry. Two men who ventured to visit a village at some hours distance from Malattia were murdered in cold blood; and this had naturally created a bad impression among the Malattia journeying craftsmen.

Land belonging to Malattia Armenians had been appropriated, it was stated, by Mussulmans in the villages, who openly declared, moreover, that they should no longer pay their debts to infidels.

This state of things was tending to increase the great destitution already prevalent among the townspeople, by enforcing the idleness, and consequent indigence, of a large portion of the local population.

As a means of reopening intercourse with the villages, and relieving the overburdened and hampered condition of the central town by the efflux of the unemployed, I suggested to the Imperial Commission that a Proclamation or "Ilan" should be sent round by him to the Agas or Chiefs of the various villages, enjoining them to call up the chief men under their control, and order them to explain to the Kurds and Turks that the Imperial Government desired that the Armenians should be unmolested, their property respected, and that money due to them should be paid as before; and I further proposed that in the event of a number of Armenians desiring to visit the same village or villages a gendarme should be sent to escort them, and that this measure should be enforced so long as they should incur any risk in the lawful exercise of their handicrafts.

With regard to Hekim Han, Shakir Pasha informed me that he had no doubt that the so-called conversions made there had been brought about under the influence of fear; and he stated that he intended proposing to the Commission of Control at Constantinople that the village should be made the centre of a Kaïmakamlik, in which case, he added, the Armenians might revert to their original creed without risk of any kind.

The Marshal further promised to investigate the question of the seizure by Mehmet Tayir of the Lusaboritch Monastery; and thanks to the measures adopted by him the monastery has now been evacuated and handed over to the Armenian Murakhass.

As regards the interruption of trade between Malattia and the villages, Shakir Pasha consented to adopt my proposal with regard to the issue of an "Ilan" to the village Agas, and I now learn that the Malattia journeying artisans have now, upon the assurances given them by the Mutessarif and the news of the Proclamation having been issued, recommenced to circulate among, and ply their industries in, the various villages of the sandjak alluded to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 201.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 719.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 8, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 196 of the 12th March last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting further assassinations in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Beyrout, August* 19, 1896.

I REGRET to inform you that fresh causes for uneasiness have lately arisen in Beyrout owing to renewed attempts at assassination.

On the evening of the 12th instant three Moslems were sitting in the shop of a tobacconist when, shortly after dark, four disguised men appeared in the doorway and without warning or provocation fired eight revolver shots at them, wounding one mortally, the second dangerously, and the third slightly. The assassins fled before it was possible to identify them; but the suspicions of the police fell on a Lebanon Christian of bad reputation named Shahin Meri, as having, with certain accomplices, been the author of the outrage.

Shahin Meri was seized by order of the Governor-General of the Lebanon, and is reported to have been shot in the leg by the police when endeavouring to escape.

The police of Beyrout are under the impression that the attack on the three Mussulmans was committed by Christians to avenge the assassination of their coreligionists in February last, as reported in my despatch of the 1st March, and several Christians have already been prosecuted on suspicion.

Two unprovoked murders of Christians, of which the authors are supposed to have been Mussulmans, have lately been committed in Beyrout—one on the 5th June and the other about ten days ago. Both the victims belonged to respectable families.

During an interview with the Vali this day his Excellency informed me that every possible precaution had been taken to insure the public peace, and that he had detained a battalion of Redifs on their way from Damascus to Lattakia, and thus increased the garrison to 1,600 men.

His Excellency further stated that the discovery yesterday of nineteen anonymous letters scattered in the streets containing most abusive language against Islam had created considerable indignation among Mahommedans, and given rise to a belief in the existence of a Revolutionary Committee of Christians.

I recommended his Excellency not to allow himself to be guided by unfounded reports, and expressed my opinion that his personal influence and counsels among Mahommedan and Christian Notables would be more conducive than any coercive measures to the preservation of order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 202.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 720.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 8, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Gilbertson, an Englishman resident in Broussa, giving an account of the situation in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Mr. Gilbertson to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Broussa, September* 5, 1896.

THE principal cause of the disorders that I gave you an account of in my letters of the 30th and 31st ultimo, were, it seems, due to the reports spread by Turks, who had participated in the recent massacres and pillaging in Constantinople. They stated that His Majesty the Sultan had issued an Iradé for the extermination of the Armenians, and one of them, it is said, openly exalted in having killed fifteen of that community, besides having obtained about 50*l.* worth of jewellery as his share when sacking a shop in Galata.

The prompt and energetic manner in which the authorities checked the mob on Monday night last has apparently appalled the Softas, Kurds, and Turkish populace, as no other disturbance has occurred.

Outwardly, tranquillity prevails, but notwithstanding these appearances the Consuls have urged that there should be no relaxation on the part of the authorities for the security of the Christians in question, and the Sub-Governor, his Excellency Béhaeddin Bey, has complied with their wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN GILBERTSON.

No. 203.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 722.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 10, 1896.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 704 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a note addressed by the Sublime Porte to the Embassies, reporting the constitution of a Special Commission for the summary trial of all persons, Armenians and Moslems alike, arrested in connection with the recent disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Note Verbale.

(Circulaire.)

LE Gouvernement Impérial a décidé de procéder sans retard au jugement des révolutionnaires Arméniens qui, impliqués dans les derniers désordres de Constantinople, ont été arrêtés ainsi que ceux des individus qui s'étaient permis de tuer des gens paisibles et de se livrer à des actes de pillage, ont été arrêtés par la police. Il leur sera infligé, suivant le cas, la peine la plus sévère édictée par la loi. Ceux des agents de police qui ayant vu les malfaiteurs commettre des crimes, ne les ont pas empêchés, ou qui ont toléré ces méfaits seront déférés également à la justice, et punis d'une manière exemplaire

Comme cependant le jugement de ces personnes par les Tribunaux ordinaires pourrait entraîner des retards, attendu qu'il passerait par les voies légales telles qu'appel et cassation, un Tribunal Extraordinaire a été institué uniquement pour l'examen de ces procès, dont le jugement aura lieu en public. Il rendra ses sentences en dernier ressort.

Sublime Porte, le 6 *Septembre*, 1896.

No. 204.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 288. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September* 11, 1896.

BARON VON ROTENHAN told me yesterday morning that the Turkish Ambassador had called upon him to express the astonishment of the Sultan at Germany having joined in the collective note which the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople had addressed to the Porte on the subject of the recent massacres of the Armenians.

Later in the day I had a conversation with Prince Hohenlohe, who said that the Sultan had no reason to be astonished at the action of the Powers after it had been fully proved that the massacres had been arranged and organized by the Sultan himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 205.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury et, pour faire suite à ses précédentes communications relatives aux affaires Arméniennes, a l'honneur de lui communiquer ce qui suit.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, en vue d'assurer le maintien de l'ordre public à Constantinople, a décidé de renvoyer dans leur pays natal tous les individus sans aveu venus du dehors. Ceux-ci pouvant cependant tenter de retourner dans la capitale, la Sublime-Porte a transmis aux autorités provinciales des ordres formels leur prescrivant d'avoir à redoubler de vigilance pour les en empêcher. Du reste, des Commissions *ad hoc* composées des Délégués des Ministères de la Guerre et de l'Intérieur et de la Préfecture de Police seront envoyées dans les ports où les dits individus seront débarqués. Elles auront pour mandat de surveiller l'exercice de la police dans ces ports, d'établir l'identité de toutes les personnes qui y arriveraient et d'examiner leurs feuilles de route. Toute négligence à ce sujet entraînera une grave responsabilité.

Comme il est fort possible que parmi les individus renvoyés dans leurs pays il se trouve des Anarchistes et que ceux-ci cherchent à y commettre également des crimes en employant des bombes et de la dynamite, les autorités Impériales ont reçu l'ordre de soumettre à une visite minutieuse toutes sortes de marchandises arrivant dans les ports, ainsi que les produits se trouvant dans les pharmacies; de surveiller constamment les faits et gestes des gens de cette catégorie et d'aviser enfin à toutes les mesures efficaces propres à contrecarrer les menées séditieuses des perturbateurs et à prévenir tout fait de nature à compromettre la sécurité publique.

Les dispositions nécessaires ont été également prises pour empêcher l'entrée dans l'Empire des émissaires des Comités Révolutionnaires Arméniens fonctionnant en Bulgarie et à l'étranger.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le Septembre, 1896.

No. 206.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 397.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 14, 1896, 7·45 P.M.

THE Acting British Consul at Jerusalem telegraphs that the ex-Patriarch Ismirlian arrived there last night, and proceeded to the Armenian Patriarchate. His Beatitude was accompanied by a police officer.

No. 207.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 398.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 15, 1896, 7·50 P.M.

A TELEGRAM has been received from the Turkish Ambassador in Paris which appears to have produced considerable effect at the Palace. It is to the effect that an Agreement was come to between the Emperors of Russia and Germany during their recent meeting, that, although the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire should be maintained, it was necessary that moral and material guarantees should be exacted, for the purpose of insuring proper administration. The Ambassadors at Constantinople would discuss the measures to be taken with this object.

The French Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed to press for the execution of the Armenian reforms, and I have personally, and through the First Dragoman, held similar language.

I am informed on good authority that on the recommendation of a Council which sat at Yildiz on Sunday, the Sultan decided to immediately execute the reforms, but changed his mind at the last moment.

No. 207*.

Acting Consul-General Mackie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 15, 8·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Odessa, September* 15, 1896, 6 P.M.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Sebastopol the following telegram:—

"A squadron, consisting of three iron-clads, two cruisers, and two torpedo-boats, has sailed for Tendra; it will await there the orders of the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, and will be joined by other ships of war if his Excellency telegraphs to request its presence. Each iron-clad has only 150 rounds of ammunition for her big guns, and there is no reserve ammunition at Sebastopol. A composite battalion of the 49th and 50th Regiment reserve battalion has also gone, and a company of military engineers to close the Bosphorus."

No. 208.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 401.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 16, 1896, 11·45 A.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 189, I learn that the Russian Ambassador has been informed that it is the intention of the Armenian revolutionaries to attack the Russian Embassy at Buyukdere or at Pera. Both are strongly guarded by Russian sailors.

It is possible that the naval and military movements reported by the Vice-Consul at Sevastopol may be accounted for by the fear of such an attack and the proximity of the British squadron.

No. 209.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 402.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 16, 1896, 8·20 P.M.

A LETTER, signed by fifty-eight members of the British colony, has been addressed to me appealing to Her Majesty's Government for protection, on the ground that the Turkish Government has been proved by recent events to be "wholly untrustworthy as a protective force."

No. 210.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. Wyndham.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 90 of the 9th instant relative to the refusal of the Roumanian Government to allow Armenian refugees from Constantinople to land in Roumania.

I approve the language which you held to M. Stourdza on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 211.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 17.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de porter à sa connaissance ce qui suit.

Pendant les derniers désordres des révolutionnaires Arméniens à Constantinople, le nombre des blessés parmi les soldats et officiers de l'armée Impériale préposés au maintien de l'ordre, ainsi que d'autres Musulmans innocents, a été évalué à 236 personnes et à autant de morts.

L'état lamentable de ces blessés soignés dans différents hôpitaux de Constantinople a été constaté par plusieurs membres des Ambassades Européennes à Constantinople.

Le nombre des engins destructifs saisis sur les révolutionnaires Arméniens se compose de 118 bombes, cartouches en dynamite, et autres substances explosives.

L'Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 16 *Septembre*, 1896.

No. 212.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de porter à sa connaissance ce qui suit.

Les Arméniens d'Eghin, en vue d'y troubler sans aucun motif l'ordre, ont brûle et quitté leurs habitations et sont allés se barricader aux environs escarpés de cette localité. Les troupes Impériales expédiées aussitôt pour les engager à rentrer chez eux, ont été attaquées à coup de feu.

Malgré la rébellion manifeste de ces Arméniens, le Gouvernement Impérial a pu rétablir la sécurité et toutes les mesures sont prises afin que de pareils désordres ne se reproduisent plus.

L'Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 16 Septembre, 1896.

No. 213.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, September 17*, 1896.

M. CHICHKINE told me to-day, with reference to the journey of the Emperor, that both in Vienna and Breslau His Majesty had spoken of the grave political danger likely to follow a disruption of the Ottoman Empire, and the consequent necessity of maintaining its integrity for as long as possible.

No. 214.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 258.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 17*, 1896.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 718 of the 8th instant, and I request you to convey to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput my approval of the representations which he made to Shakir Pasha in regard to the Armenians of Malatia and Hekim Han.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 215.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 13*, 1896.

FOR the last few days Armenian refugees have been flocking here in great numbers, and their sustenance, in great measure, falls on the Government, who lodge them in various public buildings and under canvas; but they are in great distress, and subscriptions are necessary for their maintenance.

A certain number of Druses also have come here, and a body of them came to this Legation, but as it was impossible to make out what they wanted without applying to the Turkish Legation, I sent them to the Head of the Police with the request that they may be assisted.

The Cretans have been rapidly returning to their island—the Cretan Committee hiring steamers for that purpose, and there are now but few remaining.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 216.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et pour faire suite à ses précédentes communications relatives aux affaires Arméniennes, a l'honneur de lui signaler le télégramme suivant qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement:—

"Hier la police a découvert une fabrique de bombes à Scutari et a saisi deux chefs du Sous-Comité Révolutionnaire Arménien, ainsi que quelques membres, qui ont avoué leur crime. Le nombre des bombes saisis est considérable."

L'Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 18 Septembre, 1896.

No. 217.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September 19*, 1896.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 402 of the 16th instant, stating that the British residents at Constantinople have addressed a letter to you, appealing for the protection of Her Majesty's Government on the ground that the Turkish Government cannot be relied upon to protect them.

I have to point out that Her Majesty's Government are precluded by Treaty engagements from sending a fleet to the Bosphorus without the consent of the Sultan.

No. 218.

Mr. Drummond to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Munich, September 9*, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that at last there are indications in Germany of a movement in condemnation of the cruelty committed by the Turks against the Armenians. Wurtemberg has the precedence in this movement. Yesterday, at a largely attended meeting of the Wurtemberg Peace Society at "Graf Eberhard," Herr Umfried, a priest, spoke of the latest slaughter of the Armenians at Constantinople, which, he stated, was proved to have been instigated by order of the Turkish Government. Europe stood by, and did not move a finger owing to the interested policy of its respective Governments. The sympathy of the German people stands always on the side of the oppressed. The duty of the Powers is intervention in Turkey, which stands outside the European concert, but the prevailing jealousies prevent it. However, the time must come when the world will become more reasonable. The best remedy would be a confederation of independent States of the Balkan Peninsula.

The meeting unanimously agreed to the following Resolutions:—

1. In consideration of the bloody inhuman cruelty which the Turks have pursued towards the Armenians, the Peace Society of the district of Stuttgart declares that it gives its sincerest sympathy to the bleeding Armenian people, and blames in the strongest terms the proceedings of the Turkish Government.

2. That the egoistical policy of the European Powers who raise no finger to help the ill-treated Armenians is profoundly lamented, that, moreover, it believes the solving of the Eastern question can be brought about in a peaceable manner; in particular it is hoped that the reforms agreed to in the Berlin Congress of 1878 may be now carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VICTOR DRUMMOND.

No. 219.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 724.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 11, 1896.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 688 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatches which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah respecting robberies on the Mecca roads.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 219.

Acting Consul Husain to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Jeddah, August* 19, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date, and Mr. Acting Consul Alban's Confidential despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform you that the road between Jeddah and Mecca, though has all along been this year far from being safe, and cases of attack and robbery have now and then been reported throughout the last pilgrimage season, but of late the unsecurity of the road is assuming an alarming condition, and unless strong measures are taken without delay, and the Bedouins of the Harbi and Oteyba tribes, who are concerned in these robberies, are severely dealt with, the traders, of whom the British Indians form the most important portion, would not like to risk their property by sending them up to Mecca under this dangerous state of affairs, and thus would have to suffer great losses in their business; besides this, the difficulties and troubles in store for pilgrims, whose influx will begin after a few months, and who have to pass the same road in hundreds and thousands daily, will have no limits.

On the 9th ultimo a caravan going from Jeddah to Mecca was attacked and several camelmen were wounded, and a large amount of property belonging to merchants was robbed, and some camels were carried off.

Again, on the 12th ultimo, only three days later, another attack was made on the caravan proceeding in the same direction, and again a severe loss was caused.

In both the above-mentioned robberies the British Indian merchants have been among the sufferers.

In the first robbery a British Indian lost cotton-goods to the value of 560 medjidié dollars, while, in the second, another British Indian sustained a loss of 754 medjidié dollars. Both of them have put in their claims for compensation.

For about a month after these two big robberies, complaints of petty thefts and robberies on the Mecca road were now and then reported, but on the night of the 12th instant a large band of Bedouins, who had apparently descended the hills with the intention of attacking the camel caravan, but, failing to carry out the designed attack on account of the caravan being escorted by a number of soldiers, was on the look-out of another chance, and sighting the postman carrying mail-bags on donkey, and a number of other donkey-riding travellers, overpowered them. In the struggle which ensued the postman was killed, and other travellers were severely wounded, and the mail-bags and every other thing that the robbers could lay their hands on were carried off.

Besides the loss of property belonging to the travellers, four bags of money (containing 2,000 dollars), which the postman was bringing for Jeddah, were missing.

The robbers evidently being not satisfied with the plunder they carried on the 12th instant committed another attack on the night of the 15th instant on the caravan going on to Mecca near a place called Bahra, and about 20 miles from here.

About twenty-five camels and a considerable amount of property were taken off. Several men in the caravan were wounded, and a camelman lost his arm. This robbery, as well as the others, were committed very close to the fort in which the Turkish troops for guarding the road are quartered, and though everything was done under their very noses, no attempt was made by the troops to afford protection or any help to the travellers, neither to pursue and arrest the marauders.

Up to this time, as I have been informed, the authorities have regained only three bags of money which were missing after the third robbery, and no trace of any other property has yet been found.

The Grand Shereef and Vali are at Taif, and the men who are acting for them at Mecca, and the Acting Kaimakam at Jeddah, are men of no experience, and no attempt on the part of the authorities seems to be made to prevent the recurrence of these fearful robberies. The public opinion here is that, as the Grand Shereef and the Vali both share in the division of the supply of grain allowed by the Turkish Government as subsidy to the Bedouins, they do not feel inclined to stop these outrages, and the Bedouins who did not get any punishment for the last year's outrage on the Consuls, and who, like all others, consider the matter finished, finding themselves in a way supported and protected by these two high officials, are assuming a very defiant and alarming attitude.

In conclusion, I have the honour to state that unless immediate and strong pressure is brought upon the Grand Shereef and the Vali the outrages mentioned above will go on multiplying, though the security of the country, I venture to think, cannot be restored satisfactorily as long as the present Grand Shereef and Vali are the rulers of the Hedjaz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. MOHAMMED HUSAIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 219.

Acting Consul Husain to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Jeddah, August* 19, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to state that, finding all the continuous and repeated writings of this Consulate in connection with the compensation for the losses sustained by the British Indians in robberies on the Mecca and Medina roads, and some other matters in which the British subjects stand in need of the help of the local authorities in order to have their claims realized from the Turkish subjects, being unheeded to by his Excellency Ahmed Ratib Pasha, the Governor-General of Hedjaz, I am obliged to inclose herewith a list of the subjects on which repeated despatches have at various times been addressed to his Excellency, but the matters stand up to this time as they were in the beginning, and the despatches have never been replied.

As such a disregard and inattention in matters of official correspondence, and especially when they are of some importance and urgency, cause great loss to the persons concerned, and a good deal of annoyance and inconvenience to the Consular officer concerned, I earnestly hope that some strong measures should be adopted to rectify the matters, and that his Excellency the Governor-General should receive orders to pay more attention to the official despatches addressed to him from this Consulate than he has been in the habit of doing up to this time, and to attend to the requests and demands conveyed in them instead of throwing them away in the waste-paper basket without paying any heed or attention to them, or perhaps without taking the trouble of making himself conversant with their contents.

For if the matters would be left to continue in this state, besides the severe losses sustained by the British subjects, this Consulate will lose all its prestige, and the people who now look upon it as their safeguard will repose no faith in its doings.

I have the honour to say that I am afraid an idea of the disability of this Consulate with respect to obtaining compensations from the local authorities for losses sustained by the British Indians in robberies committed on the Mecca and Medina road is already gaining ground slowly in their minds, and this may lead to serious consequences afterwards.

The Turkish Government allows the Bedouins a large grant of wheat every year; I suppose on this condition only, that the roads should be kept in safety and no robberies were to be committed by them; otherwise they forfeit this grant.

But, as already reported to the Embassy in former despatches by Mr. Alban, the Bedouins themselves are defrauded every year by the Grand Shereef and his Agent, Omar Nassif Effendi, with regard to this allowance of grain; the matters are going from bad to worse day by day, and very severe and continued efforts will be required to prevent the abuses which are so rife here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. MOHAMMED HUSAIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 219.

List of the Subjects on which his Excellency the Governor-General of Hedjaz has repeatedly been written to and no replies have been received, and the matters are still undecided.

No.	Subject.	Total Value.
1	Robberies of 1890	1,923½ dollars
2	Robberies on goods of Mohammed Jemal Benaan in 1890	2,925 ,,
3	,, ,, Ahmed Jemaluddin in 1893	530 ,,
4	,, ,, Abou Beker Abdul Ghani Attar in 1894	137½ ,,
5	,, ,, Mohammed Seraj Habeebulla in 1894	216 ,,
6	,, ,, Ahmed Abdullatif in 1894	150 dols. M.Th.
7	,, ,, Abdul Hamid Abdul Rashid in 1894	1,000 rupees
8	,, ,, Abdul Hossein Noor Ali in 1894	80 dollars
9	,, on property of Kunji Fakki in 1895 ..	400 ,,
10	Case of Mohammed Peshawari for	200 rupees
11	,, Ahmed Ibrahim Catani.	
12	,, Jamaluddin Cotub.	

Note.—In the last two cases the plaintiffs got decrees more than a year ago, but the money has not been recovered yet. The last letter about the above-mentioned subjects was addressed to his Excellency the Governor-General on the 20th July last, and no reply to that also has been received.

No. 220.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 727.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 16, 1896.*

I ATTENDED the Selamlik on the Friday following my return from leave of absence in accordance with the usual custom.

The Sultan received me afterwards in private audience. After inquiry as to the health of the Queen, His Majesty referred to the events which have recently taken place in this capital. The tendency of his remarks was to throw the whole blame on the Armenians, and to ignore the massacre committed by the Mussulman population with the connivance and assistance of the police and soldiers. As the question is being dealt with by the Representatives of the Great Powers, I thought it better to abstain from making representations which I knew from experience would only lead to fruitless discussion; but I received His Majesty's observations with the utmost coldness and reserve. This attitude had apparently more effect in bringing home to the Sultan's mind the condemnation by Her Majesty's Government of his proceedings than any words I could have used. He brought the audience to a speedy conclusion with evident signs of vexation.

On the following day Mr. Block was summoned to the Palace, and was informed by the First Secretary and by Izzet Bey that the Sultan had been much distressed at my attitude, which surprised him the more as he had been led to believe that your Lordship had found no fault with his proceedings, and that they had also been commented on by the "Times" and other English newspapers more favourably than by the foreign press. Mr. Block availed himself of the opportunity thus given to convey my opinion of the danger to which the Sultan and his Empire were exposed by the wholesale massacre of Christians which had taken place in the capital, and by the persistent disregard of the advice which I have repeatedly offered on behalf of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 221.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 731.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 14, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Trebizond, respecting the situation in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 221.

Acting Consul Shipley to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Trebizond, September 5, 1896.*

IN reply to your telegrams of the 27th and 28th ultimo, informing me of the recent occurrences at Constantinople, I had the honour to report to you in my telegram of the 31st of the same month, that so far there had been no disturbances in this city, and that the Vali, Cadri Bey, was doing his utmost to maintain order. I have now further had the honour to telegraph to you to-day, in reply to your telegram of the 4th September, to the effect that although many Armenians have left for Russia, no panic has so far taken place, and that the instructions referred to by you in your above telegram had been received by the authorities, the Vali taking measures accordingly.

It was in some respects fortunate that when the first vague details of the occurrences at Constantinople reached Trebizond some few days later, an impression gained ground among the Mussulmans that the Armenians were not alone to blame, but that Turks also were in some way responsible.

This impression, of course, was dispelled as successive steamers brought more definite information, but the effect was good in so far as it served to prevent an outburst of popular excitement.

Naturally the past week has been one of great anxiety to the Armenians at Trebizond, though it is only fair to the Mussulman portion of the population to say that their attitude, so far as my observation goes, has hitherto been peaceable and free from any demonstrations calculated to alarm their Armenian fellow-subjects.

Monday, the 31st ultimo, the anniversary of the Sultan's accession to the throne, a day which had been looked forward to with particular apprehension by Armenians, passed off quietly, several of the latter being seen among the crowds at the illuminations in the evening. This result was no doubt in a great measure contributed to by the precautions taken by the Vali, who forbade all firing off of guns or pistols, and who further had quietly imprisoned for the day some thirty Turks, who were known to be of the more turbulent class.

Among the causes to which the absence of panic up to the present at Trebizond must be attributed, is undoubtedly the personal influence of the Vali, Cadry Bey, himself, and the respect in which he appears to be held by all Turks alike, whether friends or enemies. His Excellency, with whom I have had several interviews during the past week, has certainly, as I had the honour to inform you in my telegram of to-day's date, acted with great firmness and discretion.

He has caused printed Proclamations in Turkish, the first dated the 27th August, the second a week later, to be placarded in the principal streets of the town, translations of which I inclose, with a view of tranquillizing the minds of the population, and has also, to the address more particularly of the Musulmans, caused to be inserted in the local paper the communication of Mgr. Bartholomeos to the Grand Vizier.

He has, further, been frequently seen in the streets personally inspecting the police and the patrols. He promptly caused a Mollah and a soldier to be imprisoned who were reported to have used threatening language, and finally has used his personal efforts to reassure the Armenians.

As to whether Trebizond will eventually escape disturbance, I scarcely venture as yet to hazard an opinion. Perhaps no better idea of the existing situation can be conveyed than by the fact that Armenians both hold the conviction, and freely express it, that they have no fear of the Mussulmans beginning a massacre unless provoked

thereto by an act of aggression on the part of one of their own number. There would then, the Armenians feel only too well, be a riot in which no mercy would be shown to them, and they point out that their most serious fear is lest some unscrupulous Armenian revolutionists, whether from Batoum or Constantinople, against whom they are entirely defenceless, should provoke the Turks to acts of reprisals. This does, in fact, in the opinion of other persons besides Armenians, constitute a real danger, and it is the possibility of this latter contingency, which is to a great extent the cause of the emigration of Armenians to Russia, referred to in my telegram of to-day's date.

In the light of their experience of last year it is impossible to blame them if they refuse to believe that the Governor-General, though they do not doubt his good-will, would be able to protect them in case of a Mussulman rising.

I beg to add that your telegram of the 31st ultimo, in which you were good enough to inform me that order had been re-established at Constantinople, the substance of which I authorized Mr. Hekimian, the Dragoman of this Consulate, to make known, produced the best possible impression among all parties, the Turks on their part being sincerely glad to obtain definite news from Constantinople.

The "Tchernamoretz," whose expected arrival I reported in my telegram of the 31st ultimo, has not yet made its appearance, and as the "Kubanetz" is still at Samsoon, there is no Russian war-vessel at Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 221.

Official Proclamation, dated August 15 (27), 1896.

(Translation.)

WE hear that rumours are current as to disturbances in Constantinople, and that everybody is repeating these erroneous news.

Even if something has happened in Constantinople, the necessary steps will be taken on the spot, and the affair can have nothing to do with this district. There is no necessity, therefore, to spread false rumours among the people at Trebizond.

I order all, Moslems or Christians, in the name of the local authorities, and I advise them as their father to abstain from spreading useless reports among ignorant and inexperienced people. Let everybody occupy himself with his own affairs, and not mix himself up in other people's business. The Imperial Government desires to have peace and tranquillity everywhere. If anybody creates a wilful disturbance, he will be punished by the authorities.

Finally, I forbid people to invent false news of the above description, and to circulate useless reports in this city.

Inclosure 3 in No. 221.

Official Proclamation, dated August 22 (*September* 3), 1896.

(Translation.)

IT is a matter of public notoriety that the disturbances recently caused at Constantinople by certain wrongdoers belonging to the Armenian Revolutionary Committees, have been suppressed under the auspices of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and a Special Tribunal has been instituted to which the Armenians who took part in these disturbances will be sent, and who will suffer severe penalties.

With reference to those who took no part in these plots, and who confined themselves solely to looking after their business, being faithful subjects of the Empire, anybody who shall dare to make an attempt upon them or their property, or the zaptiehs who shall fail to seize such as contrary to the wish of the Sovereign, shall begin to pillage, will be at once arrested and brought before the Special Tribunal, and will incur the severest punishment.

We issue the above Proclamation by order of the Sublime Porte, in order that all may know the will and desire of His Majesty the Sultan, and to give every person to understand that he is to occupy himself with his own affairs, and to do nothing that does not properly pertain to him.

No. 222.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 732.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 15, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting that tranquillity has been maintained at that place notwithstanding the news of the massacre at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Consul Graves to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Erzeroum, September* 4, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that, notwithstanding the disquieting news of serious disorders in Constantinople which are now generally known, nothing has occurred as yet to disturb the tranquillity of Erzeroum, and the festivities in connection with the Sultan's accession on the 31st ultimo passed without any incident. No doubt this result is in part attributable to the efforts of the Vali, Raouf Pasha, to maintain order, but it would also appear as if there was an abatement of the hostile feelings of the Mussulman population towards the Armenians, who are, on their part, most anxious to avoid any appearance of provocation.

Another circumstance which has perhaps prevented the news from Constantinople from rekindling race hatred between Turks and Armenians, is the wide-spread belief among the former, that the disturbances at Constantinople were not confined to a massacre of Armenians, but that there has been some overt revolutionary movement of the Young Turkey party, which counts many sympathizers in this province, especially among the officials, both civil and military.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 223.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 733.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a threatening letter sent to the Embassies last Thursday. Though the Committee who sign this letter—the Hinchag—are not the same persons as those who seized the Ottoman Bank, and are believed, rightly or wrongly, to be less dangerous, the Ambassadors felt that after recent experiences it was impossible to neglect this communication. We accordingly at once sent it to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and requested that the Government would take measures to provide for the public safety.

As the news of the receipt of this letter gradually spread, a marked feeling of uneasiness was observable among both European and native Christians. Numbers of Armenians left Stamboul for the islands, and thereby produced an impression that they knew some incident (as massacres are euphemistically termed in Turkey) was likely to occur. For reasons not very clearly defined it was agreed that something would happen yesterday, the 15th. According to one story, the attack was to come from the Hintchagists, according to another from the Softas, while a third combined both these versions by declaring that the Hintchagists would disguise themselves as Softas and invite the Turks to massacre Europeans.

On Tuesday the Prefecture of Police requested the Embassies, in view of the prevailing rumours, to appoint an officer to accompany the troops or gendarmes should

it be necessary to search foreign domiciles for Armenian revolutionaries. I instructed Mr. Thompson, of Her Majesty's Consulate, to put himself at the disposition of the police should occasion arise.

No attempt, however, was made, which was hardly astonishing. If the Hintchagists had really selected this day, of which there is no proof, it was only natural that they should defer their attempt to a time when the police would be less on the alert.

At about 11 A.M. a panic occurred both in Galata and Pera. Various accounts were current as to its origin: a soldier's revolver had accidentally gone off, a pickpocket had been arrested, a balcony had given way, and a man and a flower-pot had fallen into the street. In an instant all the shops shut their shutters (which are kept specially prepared for sudden eh sure), a general stampede took place, and the British Consulate and the Bank were filled with refugees. It is agreed on all hands that the troops and police behaved with great promptitude and efficiency. The bridge and all the principal thoroughfares were at once blocked in order to prevent any rush of the mob, and order was restored in a very short time.

Many of the Embassies, particularly the Russian, were and still are very apprehensive of an attack. M. Nélidow and Baron Calice have placed considerable guards of sailors at the town and country Embassies and at the Consulates. Last evening the Russian Embassy expressed fears that they might be attacked during the night.

Her Majesty's ship "Dryad" remains in the Lower Bosphorus, and in case of disturbances Captain Pelham will do what is possible for the protection of the premises belonging to Her Majesty's Government, and of the lives and property of British subjects. I have not thought it advisable to station sailors or marines on shore until the necessity for such a step is more clearly shown.

I inclose a translation of an official communiqué which appeared to-day in the Turkish papers and is obviously intended to restore confidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

The Hintchagist Committee to the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Constantinople, le 10 Septembre, 1896.

Excellence,

A LA suite d'une manifestation qui avait pour but de rappeler aux Puissances et de leur faire exécuter des réformes en Arménie, des milliers d'Arméniens ont été pendant quarante-huit heures égorgés et pillés. Non content de ces représailles sanglantes, le Palais, sous le forme d'emprisonnements et d'exils, continue jusqu'à cette heure-ci son système d'extermination. Dans la capitale et les faubourgs chaque maison perquisitionnée, chaque rue surveillée par des agents civils. Dans la seule inculpation de n'être pas père de famille, des Arméniens de tout âge, même des femmes, sont mis en état d'arrestation, conduits en prison, dépouillés de leur bourse et embarqués pour des destinations inconnues. Encore une fois les Représentants des Puissances prêtent la main au Palais, sous le prétexte de soustraire les Arméniens à la mort, il les aident à les chasser de Constantinople. Ils nous disent ouvertement ou nous font entendre que leurs Gouvernements sont décidés à sacrifier nos revendications à la cause de la paix Européenne.

Cependant, il est clair que les Puissances agissant en commun et avec énergie obtiennent tout au Palais. Divisées par des querelles d'intérêts, auxquelles rien ne leur donne le droit de subordonner la question de notre mort, elles deviennent les jouets d'une côterie de bandits et d'assassins qui, de Yildiz, se proposent d'exterminer les populations Arméniennes.

Agriculteur, commerçant, industriel, médecin, avocat, homme de pensée, et d'action, nation enfin, nous élevons la voix (craignez que notre voix ne trouve un écho dans les classes laborieuses de vos propres pays) et dans la lutte inégale que nous livrons à nos oppresseurs nous vous invitons à vous ranger du côté des facteurs de la civilisation contre ceux que vous avez vu dans les vilayets et jusque dans la capitale.

Soldats, agents du Palais, prêtres, vagabonds unis ensemble pour offrir à leur Dieu du sang Chrétien et détruire en une nuit l'œuvre des capitaux amassés au prix de labeur séculaire.

Au succès de la cause Arménienne sont attachés non seulement l'honneur mais

aussi la sécurité et le progrès de l'Europe. Par nous seront ouvertes à votre commerce à votre industrie, à vos idées ces routes, ces plaines, ces vallées dont les barbares ont fait de mornes solitudes.

Ce n'est pas ici une prière; en mettant sous vos yeux la persécution Arménienne nous venons une dernière fois vous rappeler à vos devoirs de protecteur des Chrétiens.

Les Représentants des Puissances doivent faire cesser, dans le plus bref délai, l'emprisonnement et l'exil en masse des Arméniens et mettre en prompte exécution les réformes formulées et réclamées par nos frères "Tachnagtzagan."

Une nouvelle action est prête par laquelle va se manifester la vitalité de notre nation. Si le présent avis n'est de votre part suivi d'aucune démarche efficace vous nous verrez encore une fois faire intervenir la mort dans le débat.

Convaincus de la justesse de notre cause, de la modération de nos demandes et des résultats positifs que donne le mal, nous entraînerons dans une commune catastrophe nous-mêmes et tout ceux qui nous entourent en vous citant au Tribunal du siècle pour répondre des horreurs dont sera suivi ce troisième et non dernier attentat que votre faiblesse nous mets dans l'obligation de ne pas épargner à la capitale de l'Orient.

Au nom du peuple Arménien,
(L.S.) Le Comité Hintchagiste.

Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

Newspaper Extract.

THE SITUATION IN CONSTANTINOPLE.—This morning's Turkish papers publish the following official communication:—

"For some time past various and false rumours have been put into circulation by agitators and other malevolent persons for the sole object of disturbing the tranquillity of the population of the Ottoman Empire. The alarm produced by these rumours most acutely affects persons engaged in trade. The Imperial Government has, under the auspices of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, taken every necessary measure of precaution in order to maintain order, as is visible to all observers. Strong forces, consisting of regular troops, gendarmes, and police are held in readiness for all emergencies in various parts of the city and in the suburbs. All the quarters and streets are patrolled night and day; precise and detailed instructions have been given to the Commanders of the troops and the police as to their action in all eventualities. The police continue their search for agitators, and all who are arrested with arms in their hands will incur the severest penalty of the law. Foreign subjects who engage in agitation will be held responsible for their conduct. It has been determined that all foreigners who do not possess the confidence of the Government will be expelled, and sent back to their countries by their respective Embassies. Under these circumstances, and in consideration of the fact that the troops, gendarmes, and policemen are strong enough, in case of disturbances, to accomplish their duty and preserve order and tranquillity, there is no ground whatever for public alarm and the shutting of shops. Every one should, therefore, attend to his business and remain tranquil. The duty of maintaining public order rests entirely with the Imperial Government, and the inhabitants of Constantinople should not, either singly or collectively, interfere with the action of the Government. All meetings, both of native and of foreign inhabitants, are prohibited by law, and consequently all persons, whoever they may be, who mix themselves up in the affairs of the police or attend meetings, will, in so doing, disobey the law, and will be held responsible for the illegality of their conduct. These measures have been decided upon by the Ministers in Council, and are hereby brought to the notice of the public."

No. 224.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 734.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 16, 1896.*

THE excitement caused by the recent events in Constantinople has not subsided, but appears rather to increase. The foreign colonies are much alarmed, and apprehension is felt that they may be the next victims. The knowledge that the Armenian Hintchakists have warned the Embassies of their intention to cause further disturbances has contributed to keep up the tension, and yesterday several panics occurred in Constantinople.

The streets are strongly patrolled, and both troops and police showed that they were thoroughly on the alert, and prepared to take prompt measures for the suppression of any attempts at violence.

Under these circumstances I am inclined to think that for the present there will be no further serious outbreak.

A marked feature of the present situation is the conviction almost universally expressed by both Turks and Christians that the position of the Empire is desperate, that the responsibility for it rests with the Sultan, that all improvement is hopeless as long as he remains upon the throne, and that his removal can only be brought about by foreign intervention.

I find the views of my colleagues considerably changed since I left Constantinople in May last. Most of them now look forward to action on the part of the Powers as inevitable and desirable.

I do not include the Russian Ambassador, whose position naturally obliges him to exercise greater reserve than the other Representatives, but I gather from his language that he, too, feels that the present state of things cannot be allowed to last much longer without interference.

He would, I have no doubt, prefer that the interference should be that of Russia alone, but he is far-sighted enough to recognize the difficulty of such a solution, and he would not, I believe, be averse to a common action on the part of the Powers if the objections of his Government could be overcome.

The German Ambassador, who has hitherto been a strong advocate of non-interference, has admitted to me that naval action may soon become necessary, but both he and the Austrian Ambassador would wish that it should be based exclusively on the protection of the foreign colonies.

The French and Italian Representatives do not conceal their desire for the forcible establishment of a more humane and orderly administration in Turkey.

Ambassadorial meetings took place yesterday and on the two preceding days. The last communication from the Hintchakists was discussed, a collective note on the Cretan question was drawn up and signed, and an answer was drafted to the Porte's note, of the 9th September, repudiating the charge of complicity in the massacres.

Although the business transacted at these meetings may not have been of first-rate importance, they are valuable as giving an opportunity for an exchange of views, and of keeping up a habit of acting together, which cannot fail to be of great value if the moment for serious action should arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 225.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 736.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 16, 1896.*

AT the first Ambassadors' meeting which I attended after my return, M. Ndlidow informed the Representatives that his Drogoman, M. Maximoff, had made arrangements with the Council of Ministers for the formation of a Special Commission of Pacification of which the Dragomans of the six Embassies were to be members. It was understood that the task of this Commission would be to deal with the many questions raised by the recent disturbances in Constantinople, to visit the prisons, to provide for the adequate protection of Armenians in the employ of foreigners, to arrange for the departure to their homes or to foreign countries of those who wished to leave the capital, and generally to endeavour to restore confidence and order.

On Monday, the 7th, I spoke of this Commission to the Grand Vizier, who stated that the Council of Ministers and himself both approved of the idea, but that the proposal had been referred to the Sultan, who had not yet issued his Iradé.

The matter dragged on until Saturday the 12th, when a Circular was received from the Sublime Porte (copy inclosed), announcing that the Commission had been formed under the presidency of Shakir Pasha; that the Dragomans were to be present at its sittings, but that they were to concern themselves exclusively with the affairs of their own countrymen ("s'occuper exclusivement des affaires touchant leurs ressortissants). On the 13th, Mr. Marinitch and the Russian and French Dragomans requested Shakir Pasha to communicate to them his instructions, as the contents of the Porte's Circular by no means corresponded with the arrangement made between the Embassies and the Ottoman Government.

Shakir Pasha regretted that he was not able to comply with this request. He was not, he said, the President of a Mixed Commission, and his instructions concerned merely himself and his Turkish colleagues.

The presence of the Dragomans was only necessary in case foreign houses or ships had to be searched, and they had nothing to do with the other business of the Commission. He promised, however, to refer the matter to the Grand Vizier and to communicate the result to the Ambassadors.

For the moment, therefore, the Commission, as an international instrument, has fallen through, and there are no adequate means of dealing with the difficulties created by the present position of Armenians in Constantinople. The chief of these are as follows: Firstly, many Armenians, some of whom are already on board foreign ships, wish to leave Constantinople. I am dealing with this question in a separate despatch. Secondly, it is currently reported that large numbers of Armenians are in prison and treated with great hardship and cruelty. Shakir Pasha states positively that the number is less than 200, and Mr. Block, who visited Galata-Serai, saw there only seventy-five prisoners and no signs of ill-treatment. Thirdly, it is eminently desirable to devise some form of protection for the numerous Armenian employés of foreign merchants, as during the late disturbances the mere knowledge that Armenians were employed in shops or warehouses caused the mob to break into and sack the premises. It was part of M. Maximoff's scheme, as accepted by the Council, that "cartes de sécurité" should be issued to all Armenian employés who remained in Constantinople, but when Mr. Marinitch urged that they should be at once supplied to those in foreign employ, Shakir Pasha refused to listen to the suggestion, and said that the most he was prepared to grant was, that British employers of Armenians might appear before the police with their servants, after which the safety of the latter, if nothing was proved against them, would be guaranteed. The matter is, however, not yet settled, and it is doubtful if the proposed procedure will prove satisfactory in practice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 225.

Note Verbale.

A LA suite des derniers incidents un certain nombre d'Arméniens, poussés par la frayeur, se sont réfugiés ou cachés soit à bord de bâtiments, soit dans des maisons ou établissements étrangers. Comme cet état de choses, en se prolongeant, pourrait réduire ces individus ainsi que leurs familles à la misère et offrir aussi des inconvénients au point de vue de l'ordre public, il a été décidé de faire examiner leurs cas et constater leur identité par les soins d'une Commission *ad hoc* placée sous la présidence de son Excellence le Maréchal Shakir Pacha, Chef de la Maison Militaire de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et composée de Hachim Bey, Sous-Secrétaire d'État au Département de la Justice; Réfik Bey, Sous-Secrétaire d'État au Département de l'Intérieur; Elias Effendi, Conseiller d'État; Abraham Effendi, Capou Kiahia, du Patriarcat Arménien; et Hussein Pacha, Directeur de la Police de Péra, et à laquelle assisteront également des Drogmans des Ambassades des Six Grandes Puissances.

Cette Commission aura à s'acquitter de son mandat conformément aux instructions dont elle est munie.

Il va sans dire que les Drogmans des Missions étrangères qui viendront à cette Commission n'auront à s'occuper exclusivement que des affaires touchant leurs ressortissants.

Sublime Porte, le 12 Septembre, 1896.

No. 226.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 737.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 16, 1896.*

THE Sultan lately sent to me, in common with my colleagues, an urgent message inviting the six Representatives to visit the military and municipal hospitals in order to see for themselves the number of Turkish soldiers and civilians who had been wounded during the recent disturbances.

I accordingly requested Surgeon Tomlinson, of Her Majesty's ship "Imogene," to make the round of the hospitals in company with Mr. Blech, of Her Majesty's Embassy.

Dr. Tomlinson reports that in the five hospitals which he visited he found altogether about 169 wounded, of whom 64 were Mussulmans, mostly soldiers, and 105 Armenians. The wounds from which the Mussulmans were suffering were mostly bomb wounds in the lower extremities, while the Armenians had gun-shot, sword, bayonet, and club wounds.

Dr. Tomlinson was informed that of those wounded during the disturbances about 20 had died, and about 100 had been discharged.

It would appear that the hospital authorities made attempts to pass off wounded Christians as Mussulmans. Thus, the 112 in the Stamboul prison were represented as being Turks, and it was only discovered by accident that 109 were Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 227.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 738.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 17, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 722 of the 10th September, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two *procès-verbaux* of the proceedings of the Extraordinary Tribunal instituted for the trial of the persons arrested in connection with the late massacres.

It was arranged that a Dragoman of some one Embassy should attend all the sittings of this Tribunal, and intervene, if necessary, on behalf of any foreign subjects whose interests might be involved; but it would appear that hitherto only the British and Russian Embassies have sent Delegates.

Mr. Devey, whom I sent as British Delegate, reports that "the attitude of the Court is characterized by all due dignity, impartiality, and a semblance of kindliness to the accused." The audience, however, consisted entirely of Mussulmans, many of them wearing turbans: and the prisoners are described as looking "ghastly, from fear and suffering." It also appears that many of the Christian witnesses were not sworn, on the ground that they were examined merely with a view of throwing light on the general condition of the town at the time of the disorders, and not in order to obtain proofs of guilt or innocence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

P.S.—It is also stated that twenty Armenians, who have been acquitted by the Court, are still detained in prison.

P. C.

Inclosure 1 in No. 227.

Procès-verbal, dated August 22, 1896 (o. s.).

LE Tribunal Extraordinaire a tenu le 22 Août (v. s.) sa première séance, et procédé à l'interrogatoire des neuf Arméniens dont les quatre sont prévenus d'avoir lancé du Messir Han des bombes sur les troupes Impériales, et les cinq d'avoir tiré des coups de feu de la pharmacie de Méziki ainsi que du Kurde Moussa, prévenu d'avoir blessé et tué Vartan à Bechiktach. Le Tribunal, après avoir désigné les avocats chargés de la défense des prévenus, a décidé de les juger le Samedi, 24 courant.

Inclosure 2 in No. 227.

Procès-verbal, dated September 7, 1896.

LE Tribunal Extraordinaire a procédé le 7 de ce mois à l'interrogatoire d'Oussep, prévenu d'avoir tiré de Souli Monastir des coups de revolver sur les troupes Impériales et les passants, ainsi que de Serkis, sur lequel ont été trouvés un revolver et seize cartouches.

Le 8, il a jugé le Kurde Moussa, qui a été acquitté à la majorité des voix.

Le 9, il a interrogé onuze Arméniens dont les neuf sont prévenus d'avoir tiré de Haladjian Han des coups de feu sur les agents de police et les trois, d'être affiliés aux Comités Révolutionnaires, et a jugé quatre Arméniens prévenus d'avoir tiré des coups de feu et lancé des bombes du Missir Han. La culpabilité de ces quatre Arméniens ayant été établie, ils ont été condamnés, à la majorité des voix, aux travaux forcés à perpétuité.

Le susdit Serkis a été acquitté à la majorité des voix, le but séditieux qu'il aurait pu poursuivre en se procurant un revolver et seize cartouches n'ayant pas été prouvé.

No. 228.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.— (Received September 21.)

(No. 739.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 17, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas respecting placards posted up at Sivas denouncing the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 228.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Sivas, September 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of placards, with translation, that were found posted on the doors of the mosques and other buildings last Tuesday morning. The Government have no clue as to who wrote and posted the placards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 228.

Translation of Placards posted at Sivas, September 1, 1896.

YOU are not ignorant of how the Government has suffered during the twenty years since Hamid was raised to the throne. It is due to his bad management that our Government is fallen into decay. It is due to him that our Government, renowned

for so many centuries, has commenced to go down. This year, Hamid himself has given orders that all should honour him on the occasion of his fête-day. The blush mounts to the face as one reads the verses prepared for his praise. This man, murderer and criminal, has left a great stain on the history of Islam. Co-religionists! awake from your stupor. The aim is not to massacre the Armenians, and to ruin our country. The aim is to try and free our Government from its fetters, and to guide it according to our sacred law. The infidel Armenians are delighted at the state of our affairs, for we do not occupy ourselves in ameliorating our condition; but we work to perpetuate the stain of Hamid, and to ruin our country with our own hands.

No. 229.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 740.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice reporting the reconversion to Christianity of the inhabitants of the Armenian villages of Roum-Kaleh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Ourfa, August* 20, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch from Birejik of the 13th August, in which I expressed the expectation that the converts of the three Armenian villages at Roum-Kaleh, viz., Khalfati, Ehnesh, and Jibin would revert to Christianity immediately on the arrival there of the Commission and myself, I have the honour to report that the Commission arrived there on the 22nd August, and that the converts of Ehnesh and Khalfati reverted on the 23rd August, while those of Jibin rebecame Christian two days afterwards.

We then summoned the Headmen of the surrounding villages (Kurdish) within a distance of seven hours' ride, and obliged them to give a written guarantee rendering themselves mutually responsible for the future security of the Armenians.

The Reserves were withdrawn to Aleppo and replaced by a company of Regulars, a small posse of which was stationed in the three villages.

Furthermore, a notorious brigand, named Yago, who had been terrorizing the Jibin Armenians, was, through our instrumentality, seized and sent under escort to Ourfa to be imprisoned there.

As the result of these measures, I have strong hopes that the Armenian villagers will not be subjected to serious molestation in consequence of their having openly declared themselves Christian.

It may interest your Excellency to learn that the Mussulman half of the population of Jibin are known as "Ghez-a-Ghez," or "half-and-half," and though they bear Mussulman names, are circumcised, and are married according to the Mussulman marriage ceremony; they also secretly have their children baptized by the Armenian priest, and a second marriage performed according to the Christian rite. They are Armenians by origin, and became Moslem over 100 years ago, as the result of an anti-Christian fanatical movement similar to that of last year. Some of the surrounding villages have a like origin, which accounts for the protection afforded to—and the comparatively small loss of—life incurred by the three villages in question during last year's massacres In fact, judging by the names of villages and remains in the neighbourhood, the district was at one time a thickly populated Armenian centre, which, owing to long years of oppression, consequent migration and conversion to Islamism, can now show only three small Armenian villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE

No. 230.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 741.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 17, 1896.

YOUR Lordship is aware, from my despatch No. 716 of the 8th September, that in many cases Armenian coal porters who were at work on or near British ships during the late disturbances, and could not land without danger, were allowed to remain on board the ships with the view of being put on shore at a Black Sea port. The Bulgarian authorities offered no objection to fugitives landing at Varna, but the Roumanian Government refused to allow any to disembark in Roumanian territory. The captains bound for Roumanian ports had therefore no option but to bring the men back to Constantinople. On this being known, the Sultan sent orders that the police should take the Armenians off the British vessels on their return. It is unlikely that anything so bold as a forcible removal was contemplated, and I am inclined to think that the police merely intended to induce them to land by promises of safety. I thought it best, however, to direct Captain Pelham to board the first steamer that arrived, and explain to the Armenians on board that they were under no obligation to disembark, and were at perfect liberty to continue their voyage to any port they might choose. I at the same time informed the Minister of Police that I should not allow the men to be taken into custody. The police launches surrounded the steamer as soon as she arrived, but the boats of the "Dryad" were too quick for them.

In subsequent cases I arranged that British ships returning from the Danube should be boarded by boats from the "Cockatrice" at Cavak, and the Armenians on board informed of the state of affairs before arriving at Constantinople.

I inclose a Memorandum giving the names of steamers, the numbers of Armenians, and the destinations to which they have been dispatched.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Memorandum respecting Armenian Coal Porters.

Steam-ship "Lynton."—Returned from Danube on the 12th September with fifteen Armenians, who were sent on to Syra on the same ship.

Steam-ship "Grenville."—Returned from Danube on the 13th September with sixteen Armenians, who were sent on to Syra on the same ship.

[Consul Cottrell has been requested to send these men on to the Piræus if work cannot be found for them at Syra.]

Steam-ship "Bernard."—Arrived from Galatz on the 13th September and took on seventeen Armenians to Malta.

Steam-ship "Douro."—Will take on to the Piræus forty-three Armenians.

Steam-ship "James Tucker."—Took fourteen Armenians to the Piræus at her own expense.

No. 231.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 742.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 17, 1896.

AS Mr. Herbert reported to your Lordship in his telegram No. 380 of the 3rd September, the Representatives of the Great Powers, warned by the sad experiences of the autumn of 1895, made urgent representations to the Sublime Porte as to the necessity of sending stringent orders to the vilayets to prevent the recent disorders in the capital from spreading to the provinces, at the same time pointing out the serious consequences to the Empire which any further massacres might entail. A few days

later the Sublime Porte informed Her Majesty's Embassy that the Sultan had commanded the Grand Vizier to send at once to the Valis and Commanders of Army Corps the most categorical orders to do all in their power to prevent any disturbance of the public order, and that similar instructions would be issued by the Minister of War to the military authorities, through the Commanders of their respective Army Corps.

The Turkish papers of the 9th instant published the text of the circular instructions telegraphed to the various vilayets, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation.

Mr. Herbert had previously addressed a circular telegram to Her Majesty's Consular officers throughout Asia Minor, requesting them to report whether the instructions promised by the Sublime Porte had actually been received.

As I informed your Lordship in my telegram No. 389 of the 7th instant, satisfactory telegrams had been received from Smyrna, Trebizond, Sivas, Angora, and Erzeroum. Since then I have received answers from Diarbekir, Aleppo, Alexandretta, and Erzeroum, stating that the instructions referred to in Mr. Herbert's circular telegram had been received by the local authorities.

Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, in telegraphing, added that the Vali called together first the Armenian Notables and reassured them, then the Mussulman Notables, to whom he read the Grand Vizier's telegram, and lastly the Mussulman clergy, whom he ordered to preach peace and conciliation. Mr. Graves said that the Vali seemed to be taking every precaution to maintain order, but that the Armenians were in a state of panic, which was increased by the posting of anonymous placards denouncing the Vali as a friend of the Armenians, and inciting the Mussulmans to fresh massacres.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van telegraphed on the 7th September that the military authorities had not received the instructions referred to, and Her Majesty's Vice Consul at Kharput telegraphed that no specific instructions had been received by the Vali as to the responsibility of each official for the maintenance of order in his own district.

I accordingly instructed Mr. Block to bring these omissions to the notice of the Turkish Government, but he was assured that Major Williams and Mr. Fontana must be mistaken, as identical instructions had been dispatched to all the vilayets of the Empire.

At Aleppo the Vali informed Mr. Catoni, the Acting British Consul, that he had received the instructions, adding, confidentially, that public order could not be secured as long as no steps were taken to punish the authors of the massacres, and that he had telegraphed to the Grand Vizier that as long as all his suggestions were disregarded he could not be responsible for the maintenance of tranquillity.

Mr. Acting-Consul Richards reports in a despatch, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, that both the Vali of Angora and the Military Commander have received orders in the sense indicated, and that complete tranquillity remained there as well as at Cæsarea and Yuzgat.

For the present no disturbances have been reported from the provinces, with the one exception of the district of Kharput, from whence I have received disquieting news. Mr. Fontana telegraphed to me on the 15th that since the massacre of last year there had not been at Kharput such a condition of intense terror as now, that he had made representations to the Vali, and demanded that a guard should be placed at the American Mission House. Yesterday I received a further telegram from him, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, stating that there had been serious disturbances at Eghin which had continued for two days. Eghin was one of the very few places in Anatolia that escaped the massacres last year, as reported in my despatch No. 971 of the 19th December last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 231.

Circular Instructions telegraphed to various Vilayets.

(Translation.) *September* 9, 1896.

IN view of the possibility that the disorders recently caused at Constantinople by certain Armenian revolutionaries may extend to the provinces, it is most essential that all civil and military measures be taken to prevent this, and all officials, of whatever

rank, who fail to use their utmost efforts to extirpate the seditions or prevent destruction and danger, will be held severely responsible. Should any such disturbance break out, no one must take part in putting it down, which task falls solely on the Government, nor must any massacre, plunder, or destruction take place. Every one is to pursue his own avocation and avoid the slightest measure infringing the Divine and His Majesty's orders, and to this end the proper exhortations and counsels must be addressed to the people; and should any disobey their orders, and, in the event of a disturbance occurring, interfere in the Governmental duty of stamping it out, or should any class of the population, Moslem or non-Moslem, venture to attack any other, and thus disregard the administrations of the Government and venture to oppose the Imperial troops, these persons, whoever they may be, will be put down by force of arms.

These instructions are to be publicly promulgated and printed in such language as may be understood by all, for distribution in the villages. In short, every effort must be made to maintain order.

Inclosure 2 in No. 231.

Circular Telegram addressed to British Consuls.

September 4, 1896.

PORTE state that categorical instructions will be sent to provinces to secure public order; every official will be held responsible for disorders in his district; special instructions will be sent with reference to Turkish tribes. Minister of War will instruct military authorities in same sense.

Report if these orders are received.

Inclosure 3 in No. 231.

Vice-Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September* 9, 1896.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's telegram of the 4th instant, informing me that instructions would be sent to the highest administrative and military authorities throughout the country enjoining on them the necessity of taking every possible precaution to prevent the occurrence of disturbances in their district, and instructing me to report as to whether such orders have been received, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that the Vali assures me that he and the Ferik Pasha (General of division in command of the Reserves), through him, have received orders in the sense indicated, and that he (the Vali) is confident that, unless something quite unforeseen should occur, no disturbance will take place in this vilayet.

From what I have seen and heard since I have been in charge of this Consulate I am inclined to believe that the Vali's confidence, in so far as this town and its immediate neighbourhood are concerned, is not misplaced, but whether, in view of their past history, the towns of Cæsarea and Yuzgat are likely to pass through this critical period equally unscathed is a matter of which I am by no means so sure. This latter term is, in fact, somewhat out of place, even as regards Angora, for, seeing how small a spark is sufficient to cause the largest conflagration in this country, one can, in view of recent events, be sure of nothing, much less of the impossibility of a disturbance, let the authorities take what precautionary measures they may.

At the same time, one fact is certain, and that is, that all that is best in the Mahommedan population in this town is entirely opposed to any project of massacre and pillage, so that, even supposing a considerable proportion of the lower classes were ready and eager for the commission of outrage, they would find absolutely no encouragement, but rather the reverse in those quarters to which they are accustomed to look for guidance on such occasions. I have been told that some of them have been heard to say "we are only waiting for an order from above in order to begin." This is extremely probable, and that is just the point. I have every reason to believe that such an order will not be given. I have thorough confidence in his Excellency the Vali, who, though a devout Mahommedan and, consequently, a rigid observer of all the rites and ceremonies of his religion, is quite incapable of permitting, much less encouraging, the smallest attempt at a massacre of Christians. As regards the Ferik

Pasha, whom I know much less intimately, I cannot speak with the same degree of confidence, but he too, I am assured by persons who are in a position to form an accurate opinion, is equally incapable of winking at the commission of outrage. The Siva Pasha (General of Brigade), whom I know well, is a thorough European in many ways, and would be the last man to let his troops get out of hand if he could possibly prevent it. The Alai Bey—or rather "Pasha" as he is here—has not been in Angora very long, but he too, I am given to understand, is a quiet moderate-minded man who would do his best to quell a disturbance. On the whole I consider we are singularly fortunate in our civil and military authorities here, and although it is possible, but not probable, that there might be a beginning of trouble, I am of opinion that it would be very promptly stifled.

There is a movement on foot both among Christians and Mahommedans, more especially perhaps among the former, of which the object is to bring about the expulsion from Angora of all Armenians who have been settled here within the last five years, on the ground that the mere presence here of strangers of their nationality might be the cause of disturbance. I find on inquiry that if this, in my humble opinion, iniquitous measure were carried out, it would affect at least some 450 persons, the great majority of whom are refugees from Cæsarea, Gurun, and Sivas, on the occasion of the massacres which took place in those towns last year. It is proposed to send these unfortunate people back to their various places of origin, which, considering that they fled here to escape death in those very places, and with the full knowledge that they would be safer in Angora than in any other town of this or the neighbouring vilayet, would be a cruel if not an infamous action. Hearing that this project had received the Vali's approval, I spoke to his Excellency yesterday on the subject, and I am glad to be able to report that he assures me that he has no such intention as that which has been wrongly attributed to him. He fully concurred with me in the opinion that such a measure is quite out of the question, not only on the score of its injustice, but because, in view of the good character and quiet inoffensive habits of the great majority of the persons whom it is proposed to expel, it would be productive of harm to its victims without in any way benefiting the rest of the inhabitants. His Excellency went on to say that he might find it necessary to expel from Angora a few young unmarried Armenians who were suspected by the police of belonging to the revolutionary party, and who in any case were without any visible means of subsistence, and might therefore fairly be considered as belonging to the class of "loafers" whose removal may be reckoned as a distinct gain to all respectable communities. In this opinion I quite concurred, and all the more so that I have reason to believe that there are a few such persons here as his Excellency described.

The fact is, as I have every reason to know, that the real reason why the great majority of the Christians here, and more especially the Catholic Armenians, who are the richest and the most influential, wish to bring about the expulsion of these Armenian strangers, is the extreme jealousy with which they view the rapidly increasing commercial prosperity of the latter during a period when their own fortunes have almost as rapidly declined. The Armenians of Cæsarea, Yuzgat, Sivas, and Gurun have the true commercial instinct very much more highly developed than their compatriots here, whether they belong to the Gregorian or to the Catholic fold. The Angora Christian, for even the Greeks of this town seem to be "tarred with the same brush," is essentially a lazy person, entirely lacking in energy or initiative, and perfectly content to follow in his father's footsteps, quite oblivious of the fact that the mohair trade, for instance, which led to wealth and general prosperity in his (the father's) time, may now almost be said to spell "ruin." The Armenian immigrants, on the other hand, seem to be full of energy and "go," and even the poorest of them contrive to make a living where a native Christian would starve. It is quite intelligible, therefore, as I am assured on good authority is the case, that the latter should view with jealous eyes the relatively rapid success of the former, and be only too glad to seize on an opportunity of ridding themselves of troublesome commercial rivals.

In conclusion, I will merely state that though there have been some vague rumours afloat as to disturbances having occurred at Konieh, which, however, I believe to be entirely unfounded, both Cæsarea and Yuzgat were, according to the latest information, enjoying complete tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 231.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Telegraphic.) *Kharput, September* 16, 1896.

SERIOUS disturbances occurred at Eghin on Monday, and continued up to yesterday evening. It is officially reported that the Armenians began by firing upon the Turkish quarter. Troops have been sent from Arabkir to protect the eight villages of the former district.

I have had long conversations with the Vali and the Commandant, who are sincere, I think, in their desire to localize the trouble. The garrison of Kharput is to be doubled, a strong guard given to Mission, the officer in charge of the town to be held responsible, and two battalions of reserves to be called out.

There is great terror here, and I have been requested unofficially that the French Mission may be guarded. They, together with two Austrian subjects, beg that their critical situation may be made known to their respective Embassies.

No. 232.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 745.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 17, 1896.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 695 A of the 3rd September, transmitting to your Lordship a copy of a collective note addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Embassies on the organization of the mob by the Turkish authorities, I have the honour to inclose copy of the Sublime Porte's reply.

The Ambassadors were of opinion that this communication could not be allowed to pass without comment, and therefore addressed to the Sublime Porte a second collective note, copy of which is likewise inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 232.

Tewfik Pasha to the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople.

LES Ministres des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note collective que MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances ont bien voulu lui faire remettre en date du 3 de ce mois relativement aux incidents provoqués en dernier lieu à Constantinople par les révolutionnaires Arméniens.

La Sublime Porte est la première à déplorer les scènes de désordres qui se sont produites à cette occasion; mais elle ne peut que repousser de toutes ses forces l'assertion d'après laquelle les individus qui se sont livrés à des actes de pillages ou à d'autres méfaits, constituaient des bandes dont l'organisation était connue sinon dirigée par les agents de l'autorité. Le fait que plus de 200 Musulmans ont été arrêtés de ce chef et se trouvent déférés au Tribunal Extraordinaire pour être punis avec toute la rigueur des lois suffit à démontrer l'injustice d'une pareille imputation.

Quant à l'apparition subite de bandes d'individus sur différents points de la ville à la première nouvelle de l'attaque de la Banque Ottomane par les révolutionnaires elle s'explique par l'état d'effervescence dans lequel se trouvait la population Musulmane depuis les incidents suscités l'année dernière par les agitateurs Arméniens et par l'excitation dans laquelle était tenu depuis quelque temps le bas peuple par les bruits qui couraient au sujet d'un renouvellement prochain des attaques des Arméniens, rumeurs que les événements n'ont malheureusement que trop confirmées. Il est avéré d'ailleurs que les événements sanglants dont la ville a été le théâtre pendant la journée et la nuit de Mercredi, 20 du mois écoulé, sont dus à une tentative criminelle des révolutionnaires Arméniens qui ont non seulement attaqué sans distinction de race et de religion tous les passants mais aussi tué et blessé d'innocentes femmes Musulmanes, dans la rue du tramway auprès de la Banque Ottomane, et lancé sciemment des bombes sur des écoliers Musulmans en bas âge aux alentours de Soulou Monastir.

Du reste, les constatations officielles démontrent d'une façon absolue la disparition et la mort de plus de soixante-dix Musulmans dans le seul quartier de Hasskeui, où l'on supposait au premier abord que l'attaque des Arméniens s'était bornée à la boucherie des officiers et des soldats du corps de garde de ce quartier.

Quant aux Musulmans tant militaires que civils qui ont reçu des blessures graves de la part des révolutionnaires Arméniens, leur nombre est considérable et les hôpitaux civils et militaires où ils sont soignés étant d'accès libre, il y a possibilité de constater *de visu* leur nombre et la gravité de leurs blessures.

MM. les Représentants disent dans leur note précitée qu'une grande partie des gens qui composaient les bandes étaient habillée et armée de la même manière.

Cette assertion ne peut être admise, car il est de fait prouvé que les individus en question appartenaient aux diverses corporations, portant des costumes différents. Quant aux armes dont ils s'étaient pourvus, elles ne consistaient, comme le reconnaît d'ailleurs la note collective elle-même, qu'en gourdins et couteaux que chacun peut se procurer partout et à tout moment à l'insu de l'autorité.

Pour ce qui est de l'attitude observée par certains officiers de police et soldats durant les désordres, une enquête sera effectuée à ce sujet et ceux d'entre eux qui seraient reconnus coupables seront naturellement punis suivant le cas.

Les troupes Impériales et la police ont rempli leur devoir avec la plus grande discipline et ont déployé dans ce but les plus sérieux efforts.

Cela est prouvé par le fait qu'elles ont pu, dans l'intervalle de deux jours, rétablir l'ordre et la sécurité publics dans une grande ville que les meneurs Arméniens avaient mise en état de révolution et calmé l'effervescence d'une population composée de différents éléments. Il est inutile de faire ressortir qu'en d'autres pays la répression de pareils désordres a exigé des mois entiers.

Un des moyens criminels employés par les Arméniens en vue de troubler complètement la tranquillité publique et augmenter la panique de la population a été de s'affubler de costumes Musulmans pour perpétuer leurs méfaits. Leurs Excellences MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances recevront bientôt les photographies de ceux de ces individus qui ont été arrêtés.

Bien que l'on ait supposé qu'un grand nombre d'Arméniens avaient trouvé la mort pendant les troubles, il a été pourtant constaté que parmi les corps qui avaient été indistinctement chargés dans des chariots pour être transportés à la Préfecture de Police, il se trouvait également un nombre considérable de Musulmans qui ont été inhumés avec les Arméniens.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne les deux Turcs employés par des Européens qui ayant disparu pendant les désordres, ont déclaré, à leur retour, qu'ils avaient été réquisitionnés et armés pour tuer des Arméniens, la Sublime Porte serait obligée à MM. les Représentants des Puissances s'ils voulaient bien faire livrer ces individus à l'autorité afin qu'une enquête minutieuse puisse être effectuée sur leur cas et que ceux dont la culpabilité serait établie, reçoivent la punition qu'ils auraient méritée.

En ayant l'honneur de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances, la Sublime Porte aime à espérer qu'ils voudront bien convenir de la sincérité de ses intentions et de son ferme désir d'assurer le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité publics.

Tous les renseignements de nature à faciliter le cours de la justice seront accueillis avec empressement.

Sublime Porte, le 9 Septembre, 1896.

Inclosure 2 in No. 232.

Collective Note of the Representatives of the Great Powers to Sublime Porte.

LES Représentants des Grandes Puissances ont l'honneur de faire remarquer à la Sublime Porte que les explications qu'elle a bien voulu leur adresser par sa note du 9 de ce mois n'infirment en rien la valeur des observations qu'ils ont dû lui soumettre au sujet des incidents sanglants qui ont suivi l'attentat commis le 26 Août dernier par des révolutionnaires Arméniens.

Le fait que des Musulmans ont été arrêtés et déférés à la justice ne suffit pas pour démontrer que les bandes dont ils faisaient partie n'étaient ni organisées ni dirigées par des agents de l'autorité. Si la Sublime Porte conteste l'uniformité du vêtement des individus qui composaient ces bandes, elle reconnaît qu'elles étaient formées de diverses

corporations; or ces corporations marchaient en corps au massacre et plusieurs agents étrangers ont pu personnellement constater la méthode avec laquelle elles accomplissaient leur sanglante besogne. Les Représentants des Puissances ont, d'autre part, de sérieux motifs de croire que l'irritation causée par les provocations Arméniennes a moins contribué à guider la populace Musulmane que le sentiment de l'impunité dont elle savait que ses coreligionnaires avaient joui dans des cas analogues en Anatolie; jusqu'à ce jour elle a compté avec raison sur cette impunité puisque le Tribunal Militaire n'a pu encore trouver un seul coupable parmi tant de criminels.

Les Représentants des Puissances ont toujours sévèrement jugé les attentats des révolutionnaires Arméniens et déploré qu'il y ait eu des victimes parmi les Musulmans, mais ils persistent à déclarer que la répression devait se limiter aux actes criminels et que les autorités civiles et militaires avaient le devoir, dès le premier moment, de préserver les rues des excès qui s'y sont commis. Ils ne sauraient admettre que, pour venger la mort ou la disposition de soixante-dix Musulmans d'Hasskeui, il fût nécessaire de livrer au meurtre et au pillage toutes les maisons Arméniennes de ce faubourg.

Quant au fait qu'un assez grand nombre de Musulmans a été trouvé parmi les morts, il démontre seulement combien dans cette œuvre sinistre les méprises sont faciles, et combien de pareils procédés sont dangereux pour ceux-là mêmes qui les emploient.

La facilité avec laquelle les massacres ont pu être arrêtés montre le pouvoir dont l'autorité disposait et le mauvais emploi qui en a été fait pendant près de deux jours.

Les Représentants des Puissances reconnaissent la discipline des troupes Impériales et leur attitude correcte dès que le rétablissement de l'ordre leur a été prescrit; ils regrettent que les instructions nécessaires ne leur aient pas été données quarante-huit heures plus tôt.

En résumé, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances n'entendent pas entrer dans de plus amples détails ni continuer la discussion, mais, s'ils réprouvent sévèrement la conduite des révolutionnaires Arméniens, ils sont forcés de maintenir leurs observations au sujet des bandes, et au sujet de l'attitude des autorités. Ils signalent le danger que constitue pour l'ordre public l'impunité laissée jusqu'à ce jour à tous ceux qui ont pris part aux massacres ou qui les ont encouragés; ils constatent que la pacification des esprits est loin de se faire, que la sécurité disparaît, que les colonies étrangères sont justement inquiètes; ils appellent l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur cette situation, qui engage sérieusement sa responsabilité.

Constantinople, le 15 Septembre, 1896.

No. 233.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord. *Salonica, September 14*, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of my despatch regarding the position of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 233.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Salonica, September 14*, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram of the 5th instant to the Honourable Michael Herbert, reporting, in answer to his telegram of the previous day, that the civil and military authorities of the Vilayet of Salonica have received stringent instructions from the Porte directing them to maintain public order, and warning them that they will be held responsible in case of any disturbance breaking out in their district.

I inclose copy of a despatch from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Monastir, reporting that these instructions have also been received by the authorities in that vilayet. I have not yet heard from the British Vice-Consul at Prevesa on the subject.

With regard to the Cossova Vilayet, I am informed by persons who have recently

come here from Uscub that the same instructions have been received by the Vali and the Commander-in-chief of that vilayet.

It has been generally remarked here that the instructions in question have not been published in the "Selanik," the official Gazette of the Vilayet of Salonica.

Conjointly with the said instructions, the provincial authorities have received directions to prepare and forward to the Porte Returns, with full particulars of the male Armenians who are established in their respective districts.

They are also directed not to grant "teskerehs" (travelling permits) to Armenians wishing to go to Constantinople.

The small Armenian colony of Salonica comprises about 150 adult males, many of whom are very industrious traders, and not a few are employed in the different branches of the Administration.

So far they have suffered no molestation whatever from their Mahommedan neighbours, and I am informed that the Vali has assured them that no harm will befall them.

The reports which have reached Salonica respecting the recent grave events in Constantinople at first had some exciting influence among the Mahommedans, and alarmed the Christians in this place; but, from the inquiries which I have made, no reasonable grounds seem to exist for apprehending any fanatical outbreak, and I am glad to add that tranquillity prevails in this place and its neighbourhood.

In the southern districts of Macedonia, however, a feeling of disquietude pervades all classes of the population caused by the Greek and Bulgarian incursions, the acts of brigandage which they have encouraged, and the misconduct of the Redif troops. The latter are established in small detachments in the villages, and many of them, particularly the contingents furnished by North Albania, plunder and otherwise ill-treat the inhabitants, and are a source of trouble to the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 233.

Acting Vice-Consul Blunt to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Monastir, September* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report, in answer to your despatch of the 6th instant, that I am credibly informed that the civil and military authorities of Monastir have received the Circular instructions of the Porte directing them to exercise the greatest vigilance in the maintenance of order and tranquillity, and informing them that they will be held responsible in case of any breach of the public peace in their district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. S. BLUNT.

No. 234.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 404.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 21, 1896, 9·15 P.M.

ARTIN PASHA, as the representative of the Armenians, has received a formal promise from the Sultan to the effect that he will at once put the reforms into execution and grant an amnesty, on condition that the Notables and clergy of the Armenian nation will sign a document stating their submission to his will. The Embassies have received a notification from the Palace of His Majesty's intentions. 180 signatures have been obtained up till now. The meeting of the National Assembly is to follow for the election of a Patriarch.

The Sultan appears to have been driven to make these promises by fear of revolutionary action and dynamite, and it remains to be seen whether he will keep them or not.

No. 235.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 405.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 22, 1896, 12·40 P.M.

I HAVE just returned from a visit to the Russian Ambassador, with whom I had a long confidential conversation. He is sceptical as to the possibility of introducing any lasting improvement into the Turkish Administration, but assures me that he has warned his Government in the strongest terms that things cannot go on here on their present footing. As regards the Armenians, he adheres to the view he has held all along, that we should not ask more for them than the execution of the reforms which had already been granted on paper. M. de Nélidow thinks that if a general understanding could be arrived at between England and Russia respecting the questions in which both are interested, including the future of Turkey, it would become comparatively easy to devise common action for dealing with the present situation here, and his private opinion is that advantage should be taken of the presence of the Emperor and M. de Staal at Balmoral to have a thorough explanation as to the points respecting which either of the two Governments entertain suspicions of the other. He is impressed with the probability, in the event of nothing being done, of the English Government being obliged by public opinion, even against their own wish, to act independently.

No. 236.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 406. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 22, 1896, 1·45 P.M.

IT is said that the Young Turkey party are on the point of making an attempt at deposing the Sultan. According to reliable information which reaches me, the Maxim guns at the Palace have been got ready for use, and a considerable amount of ammunition has been taken there. But an open attack on the Palace seems improbable, even if any attempt should take place.

No. 237.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 168.)
My Lord, *Sophia, September* 20, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Varna, reporting the arrival there of 2,400 Armenian refugees from Constantinople.

When I last saw M. Stoiloff, I did not know that the Armenians were arriving in such large numbers, and I did not inquire how the Government intended to dispose of, or provide for them, but I shall do so on the first opportunity. I remarked, however, to his Excellency that I had noted with pleasure that Bulgaria had not followed the example of some of her neighbours in closing her ports against these poor people. He replied that public opinion would not have tolerated such a course; and that when the Turkish Government remonstrated against the admission of the refugees, some of whom were dangerous conspirators, he had replied that a watch would be kept on them, but that so long as they did not abuse the hospitality of Bulgaria by illegal proceedings, there was no ground for refusing it to them. I said that no other answer would have been worthy of his country.

In a letter dated the 16th instant, the Acting Consular Agent at Bourgas informed me of the arrival there of about 275 Armenian refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 237.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Elliot.

Varna, September 17, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that within the last ten days 2,400 Armenian refugees from Constantinople arrived at Varna alone, exclusive of Bourgas, 900 having been landed yesterday from Bulgarian, Russian, and Austrian steamers, while more are expected to arrive. They are nearly all men, with but very few women or children, and chiefly of the poorer, hammal, day-labourer, artizan, or small tradesman class.

The Government proposes to draft the greater portion of these to different towns of the interior, such as Dobritch, Shumla, Razgrad, and Rustchuk, and to-day about 1,000 of them were to be sent up the railway line. It is very desirable that the accumulated numbers at Varna should be distributed elsewhere, both on sanitary and economical grounds. In the first place most of the refugees are being housed in an old hospital where the hygienic conditions, even before, were none of the best, and its present overcrowded state might easily breed an expidemic of fever. It is true that there is some talk of camping some of them out under tents, but up to the present this has not been done.

On the other hand I do not see how the refugees are going to earn their livelihood; here the native port-labourers would certainly actively resent the strangers taking the bread out of their mouths, and it is difficult to understand what useful trade or handicraft the bulk of them could exercise elsewhere, especially taking into consideration the characteristic jealousy of the Bulgarians.

Some say that the Bulgarian Government would welcome even a wholesale Armenian immigration, because as agricultural colonists they could settle down and cultivate the large extent of land left fallow owing to the Mussulman emigration. As far as I can judge, however, leaving aside the poverty of the refugees and possible State help in the shape of cattle, implements, &c., the great majority of them by no means bear the stamp of peasant cultivators, but of townspeople. It is certainly very creditable to the Bulgarian Government that they should afford hospitality to these poor people, the more so as this has been refused them by Russia and Roumania; but apart from any political motives that might come into play, I suspect that a really large and lengthened immigration of the same class would put a severe strain upon the benevolence of the Government and population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 238.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 407.)

(Telegraphic) P. *Constantinople, September* 23, 1896, 11·45 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 404.

I have the honour to report that so far nothing has been done respecting reforms, amnesty, or Convocation of the Assembly, for the election of a Patriarch, notwithstanding the Sultan's promises, and the signature of the Memorial by Armenians.

No. 239.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 408.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 23, 1896, 7·30 P.M.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BULMAN informs me that in the neighbourhood of Divrigh, three villages have been looted, and 100 persons killed, according to present information. The number of victims at Eghin exceeds 1,000.

Mr. Bulman requests that the French Ambassador may be informed of the above.

No. 239*.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 409.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 23, 1896.

HER Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs to me as follows:—

"More than 1,000 Armenians, who have been banished from Constantinople to the interior, have now arrived in Erzeroum. Half of them are in a state of absolute destitution. They are cruelly treated on the journey and half-starved, their daily rations being only three-quarters of a pound of bread; several have died on the way. The Turkish authorities apparently refuse to assist them, and I would therefore suggest that our Relief Committee might, at small cost, be of great assistance. I believe that a grant of 100*l.* would suffice to relieve all the Armenians who are coming this way.

No. 240.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 112. Very Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 23, 1896.*

I HAVE received from Mr. Milbanke a despatch (No. 283, Secret) of the 6th instant, reporting a conversation with the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which his Excellency, after expressing his desire to continue to act as hitherto in union with this country, added that it was essential for him to have some more thorough knowledge of the views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the East.

I request that, on your Excellency's arrival in Vienna, you will take an early opportunity of seeing Count Goluchowski, and will explain to him that Her Majesty's Government still desire the preservation of the Ottoman Empire, but consider that this end can only be insured and justified by introducing reforms in the present system of Government. The task of inducing the Sultan to accept the changes necessary for this purpose would, in any case, be difficult, but unless an agreement between the Six Powers can be attained, it will become impossible.

You should inquire of Count Goluchowski whether he is willing to give instructions to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to consult with his colleagues on the reforms which it would be requisite to introduce into the Turkish Administration in order to secure better government, and to prevent for the future a recurrence of the frightful cruelties which have recently been committed in various parts of the Empire.

You may add that I propose, as a preliminary condition of this exchange of views, that if the six Governments should, on consideration of the report of their Ambassadors, adopt any proposals as suitable and necessary for the purpose indicated, and if, on their being placed before the Sultan, His Majesty should refuse to accept them, measures should be taken by the Six Powers to enforce their acceptance, and that in case any Power should prefer not to take any active share in such measures, it should not offer any opposition to their being taken by the other Powers or any of them.

I shall be glad to learn the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government on this proposal, which I have not as yet mentioned to any other Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 241.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 180.)

My Lord, *Athens, September 19, 1896.*

IN my despatch No. 175 of the 13th instant, in which I mentioned the arrival of Armenian refugees, I find from the Minister of the Interior that the number at present sheltered by the Government do not amount to 400; but he hears that a large number are coming here immediately, and his Excellency does not know where they can be sheltered; at present he has lent them tents. The Cretans, though the Government has ceased giving supplies to them, have by no means all returned; indeed, he assured me that he considered there were still 10,000 of them in Greece, which I told him appeared very surprising, as very few of them were now seen in the streets, and they had been returning of late in such large numbers. Not fast enough, he said; he was doing what he could to persuade them to return more rapidly.

I saw the President here of the Armenian Committee, who tells me that about 1,500 Armenian refugees have come here, but many have gone on to Egypt and elsewhere, and more are expected. At present there are about 1,000 here: 500 living on their own resources, 350 sheltered by Government, and 150 in houses provided by Armenian charity.

The Government has not been asked to give rations or pecuniary assistance, and the subscriptions obtained by the Committee here up to the present sufficed to help the needy. The Armenians are apparently very active in seeking and obtaining work, and with some pride the President compared them in this respect with the Cretans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 242.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 24.)

Sir, *Admiralty, September 23, 1896.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extract from a letter from the Officer Commanding Her Majesty's ship "Scylla" of the 29th August, reporting on the state of affairs at Alexandretta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 242.

Captain Scott to Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour.

(Extract.) *"Scylla," at Alexandretta, August 29, 1896.*

I LEFT Khania at daybreak on 27th August, and arrived at Alexandretta at 7·30 A.M. this day, where I found the United States' cruiser "San Francisco," of which ship a description is forwarded herewith.

Mr. Belfanti, the Acting Vice-Consul here, showed me the following telegram, in cypher, from Mr. Herbert, of the British Embassy, Constantinople:—

"Circulate privately and secretly. Situation is still very serious, and massacres of Armenians is still going on in Constantinople and Bosphorus. I fear you must be preparing for similar incident, but keep this news to yourself."

Mr. Belfanti has also heard that at Beilan, two hours from this port, the relations between the Mussulmans and Armenians are in such a state of tension that he has thought it necessary to advise the two English families residing there to either at once return to Aleppo whence they came, or to come in here.

In the event of a fanatical rising here, I have made the same arrangements for protecting the Consulate and bringing off the women and children as were in force with my predecessor.

No. 243.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 410.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 24, 1896, 11 A.M.*

VICE-CONSUL WILLIAMS reports by telegraph the arrival at Van of about thirty Russo-Armenian revolutionists. They were attacked yesterday afternoon by the troops, by whom a house containing some of the revolutionists was burnt; it is known that others are in another house. The troops have kept the Mussulman inhabitants in check so far, and have done well.

No. 243*.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, September 24, 1896.*

IN answer to your Lordship's telegram No. 167, I have the honour to state that your Lordship's views are entirely in accordance with those of Count Goluchowski, who assured me that from Austria no opposition need be expected, but his Excellency is convinced that such a consultation among the Ambassadors would never meet with the approval of Russia.

The expediency of some analogous action, especially in regard to the levying of taxation, was suggested by him to Prince Lobanow during his stay here, but met with a curt and positive refusal on the part of the Prince, who declined to take part in any step which would involve placing Turkey under tutelage.

His Excellency also firmly believes that similar views will be found to influence the Emperor Nicholas, and that any proposals your Lordship may make in this sense will be rejected by His Majesty.

No. 244.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 269.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1896.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 709 of the 3rd instant relative to the murder of two Armenians by Turkish soldiers near the British Embassy at Therapia.

I approve the steps taken by Mr. Herbert for the protection of the Embassy, and his promptitude in bringing the matter to the notice of the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 245.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 271.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1896.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 688 of the 31st ultimo, giving an account of the massacre of Armenians which followed the attack on the Ottoman Bank at Galata, and of the steps taken by him and his colleagues in connection with it.

I entirely approve Mr. Herbert's proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 246.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 272.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1896.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 682, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, giving an account of the capture of the Ottoman Bank at Galata by a band of Armenians.

I shall be glad if your Excellency will thank Sir E. Vincent for communicating Mr. Barker's interesting report of his conversation with some of the Armenians who were concerned in the attack on the bank.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 247.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 746.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 20, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus and Consul-General at Beyrout on the outbreak in the Hauran and the possibility of arriving at a pacific settlement.

I have already made unofficial representations on the subject to the Grand Vizier, and pointed out that the interests of Turkey must suffer greatly if the Hauran question is allowed to remain unsettled and attract the attention of Europe, and I propose to sound his Highness as to the possibility of sending Hussein Fevzi Pasha, as suggested by Mr. Eyres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 247.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, September 7, 1896.*

WITH reference to the accompanying despatch from Mr. Eyres relative to the state of the Hauran, and submitting suggestions for the pacification of that district, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the reports as to the summary imprisonment by the Mushir of twelve Druse Sheikhs who had accepted the conditions of surrender coincide with the information communicated to me by Lebanon Druses. I have also heard from the same source that fears are entertained of the Government's alleged determination to exterminate the Hauran Druses with the assistance of the Bedouins and other tribes by whom they are surrounded.

The late rising in the Hauran in no way resembles that of the autumn of last year, when the Druses merited chastisement for acts of insubordination and lawlessness which terminated in an affray with Mussulmans, and demands from Damascus for redress.

I have explained in previous reports the causes of the recent outbreak, and shown that the Druses, who had surrendered under assurances from the authorities that they would be fairly governed, were mercilessly persecuted, and finally driven to desperation by outrages on their harems.

It is a well-known fact that the Druses of the Hauran have been exonerated from military conscription since 1840, owing to the services they rendered to the Turks in the time of Ibrahim Pasha. I think, therefore, it would be more politic of the Sublime Porte to allow them to enjoy that immunity so long as they are surrounded by well-armed and semi-independent tribes who are not subjected to conscription.

The Druses of the Lebanon have watched the course of events in the Hauran with profound interest and anxiety, and the Local Government continues to exercise strict police supervision over them, with a view of avoiding agitations in connection with the Hauran question; but the Lebanese are not restrained so much by the coercive measures of the authorities as by the confident belief, engraved in the mind of every Druse, that the British Government will exert their influence, as they have always done when that people have been threatened with injustice and oppression.

The appointment of a more capable Mushir, who would understand and be respected by the Druses, and the substitution of reliable civil and military officials for those who have participated in the recent deplorable events, are most desirable for the restoration of order in the district.

I beg also to mention that the nomination of Circassians or Kurds to posts in the future Government of the Hauran would be likely to lead to fresh troubles after the late experiences of the Druses under Kosrev Pasha and his staff.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 247.

Consul Eyres to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Damascus, September 3, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo relative to the disturbances in the Hauran, I have the honour to report, for your information, that for some days past I have failed to obtain any news except what the Vali saw fit to communicate, which was always to the effect that the affair was practically settled, and that no further difficulty was expected.

For the last fortnight no more sick have been brought in to Damascus, temporary hospitals having been prepared for their reception at Suedah and Sheikh Meskin.

Yesterday, however, I obtained information from two unofficial sources which are fairly trustworthy. I learnt from one source that the Mushir, becoming impatient at the small result hitherto achieved, summoned twelve of the Druse Sheikhs, who had surrendered and signed their acceptation of the conditions imposed by the Turkish Government, and demanded of them why they had not acted up to their promises in the matter of the surrender of their arms and horses, and also why the Orman offenders had not been brought in. Without awaiting a reply, his Excellency ordered

them to prison. This action is not likely to produce a good effect on the Druses, who still hold out. I also heard that Memdouh Pasha is near Salkhad with a force variously estimated at from two to eight battalions, that four battalions had been sent to Shahba, and four to Ahery

My second informant was an acquaintance whom I had the good fortune to meet, and who had fallen in with a body of thirty Druses coming from the Hauran.

The Druses applied to him for assistance (which he was unable to grant), and gave him a full description of their present situation. They stated that the Druses in the Ledja were in a most miserable condition, and that there was great want of unity amongst them, and that they were reduced to utter despair. A large number of those who still hold out are anxious to surrender, but are afraid to do so because they cannot trust the Ottoman Government.

They said they are hopelessly ruined, that their flocks and herds are mostly in the hands of the Bedouins and Circassians, and that they have lost very large numbers of men and women in battle, and of men, women, and children from hardships and exposure during the two campaigns. They put their total loss during the winter and this last campaign at 6,000 persons, including prisoners, conscripts, and wounded. They have never, they said, admitted even to their co-religionists of the Lebanon the extent of their losses, nor have they allowed their desperate situation to transpire.

They are willing to submit to taxation on condition that arrears are left out of the question, and that a reasonable delay is granted before they are called upon to pay tithe, &c.

They are prepared also to give up those responsible for the attack on the troops at Orman, though they say that if a fair inquiry were instituted, it would be found that not the Druses but the Turkish officials were to blame for the outbreak.

But they are not willing to submit to military service, as they say, with reason, that they would not be able to hold their own against the Bedouins, Circassians, and Kurds; and, further, that the Ottoman Government after 1840 made a compact with them freeing them from military service on condition that they guarded the desert frontier.

I understand also that the Government has very harsh intentions towards the Druses. They are, it is said, determined to crush the Druses at all hazards, and if the troops now in the Hauran do not succeed in effecting their purpose, the Bedouin tribes are to be enlisted in the service of the Government. Propositions to that effect have already been made and favourably received. The Government is credited with the intention of deporting the Druses *en masse* from the Hauran, and Settham Pasha, Sheikh of the Roualla Bedouins, who had already cast in his lot with the Turks, has promised the assistance of his whole tribe if the Druse mountain is handed over to him and his tribe as their property.

The tale, as told to me, is a pitiful one, and it appears that the Druses of the Hauran are threatened with extermination. In my previous reports I have informed Her Majesty's Ambassador that there was, in my humble opinion, no cause for interference as long as the Turks were content to repress the insubordination of the Druses, and were inclined to deal fairly with them; but the behaviour of the military and civil officials in the spring of this year did not come under the category of fair dealing. The Druses were driven to revolt by cruel outrage and oppression. During this latter outbreak the Druses have behaved well. They acted entirely on the defensive; they pillaged no villages; they did no harm to any of the inhabitants, Moslem or Christian, of their district, and they only fought in defence of their homes and of the independence granted to them by the Ottoman Government.

The Druses have always, as is well known, considered themselves under the protection of the British Government, and if it be still considered desirable to extend to them a helping hand, now, if ever, is the moment to my mind. The question is in what way would it be possible to aid them. I venture to suggest one method. There is in the Ottoman Empire one man, and, as far as I know, one man only, whom the Druses trust absolutely. That man is Hussein Fevzi Pasha, Mushir, at the present time, I believe, at Salonica. The Druses know him, and they trust his word and believe in his justice and moderation. His presence here would be sufficient to cause the Druses to surrender at once, and without conditions. If, therefore, it be possible to induce the Ottoman Government to employ Hussein Fevzi Pasha on this mission, and if it be possible to induce the Pasha to accept it, the solution of this question is easy.

For the rest details could be easily arranged. The terms the Druses are willing to accept seem fair enough. They accept taxation, but it is not fair to require arrears,

and it is reasonable to grant them a delay. It is not just that the men of Orman should be punished, but the Druses accept even that. Military service is the crux, but the Turks are breaking faith with them in demanding it, and in their position, surrounded as they are by hostile populations, it would neither be just nor politic to require it.

The matter of government resolves itself into a question of men, but I think it probable that a Turkish Kaimakam could be found who would carry out any policy that Hussein Pasha might initiate.

This seems to me at any rate the only hope of preventing further bloodshed, of saving from destruction a brave though savage race, and of establishing a decent system of government in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 248.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 412.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 25, 1896, 7·30 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van telegraphs that on the evening of the 23rd the troops drove the revolutionists from Van and obliged them to cross the frontier. The troops were out all last night. No outrages of any kind have been committed and no unnecessary damage done; in fact, the arrangements, so far, seem excellent.

Major Williams further states that Shakir Pasha proposes, if possible, to leave in a fortnight for Bitlis, but is of opinion that he should remain longer at Van.

No. 249.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 273.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1896.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 706 of the 3rd instant relative to the damage done to the premises of British subjects at Galata during the recent disturbances.

Mr. Herbert incloses a Report on the subject by Mr. Max Müller, and calls attention to the valuable services rendered by that gentleman in connection with the removal of the surviving Armenian employés of British subjects from the houses of the latter.

I have heard with satisfaction of the efficient manner in which Mr. Max Müller executed the mission with which he was charged, and I request that you will communicate to him my approval of his conduct.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 250.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 274.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1896.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 690 of the 31st ultimo, and I approve the steps which he took to provide for the safety of the British residents in Constantinople and its neighbourhood during the recent disturbances.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 251.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 276.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1896.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 705 of the 3rd instant, and I approve the telegram which he addressed to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 26th ultimo, holding the Turkish Government responsible for any injuries or losses which might be suffered by British subjects during the disturbances at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 252.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 277.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 741 of the 17th instant, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the steps which you took in regard to the Armenian coal-porters who sought refuge on British ships during the recent disturbances at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 253.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 413.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 26, 1896, 11 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 408, Mr. Graves telegraphs that he is informed by the Vali that four or five days ago disturbances occurred at Eghin. According to his story the Armenians were the aggressors, and after setting fire to part of the town withdrew to the mountains. Troops were dispatched against them, and in the engagement which ensued 400 Armenians were killed. The Mussulman loss was eleven killed and twenty-eight wounded. An attempt was made by a body of Kurds, who were excited by these events, to enter the Vilayet of Erzeroum. Troops were, however, dispatched against them, by the Vali's orders, and they were driven back.

No. 254.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 414.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 26, 1896, 11·5 A.M.*

IN continuation of my telegram No. 413, Mr. Fontana telegraphs from Kharput that the Eghin disturbances have been very serious. The massacre opened by a gunshot and lasted forty-eight hours. The authorities admit that 300 Armenians were killed, but he learns from trustworthy sources that upwards of 800 were massacred and between 500 and 600 Armenian houses were burnt. The survivors will be reduced to great misery during the winter.

No. 255.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 415.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 26, 1896, 12·45 P.M.*

IN continuance of my telegram No. 409, Mr. Graves telegraphs that instructions have been sent to the Vali to do all in his power to alleviate the hardships of the Armenians exiled from Constantinople during their stay in the Vilayet of Erzeroum. He has, in consequence, ordered rations to be given to them consisting of three-quarters of an oke of bread a-day.

No. 256.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 296.)
Berlin, September 25, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a précis by Mr. Whitehead of an article in the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of the 22nd instant, with regard to the agitation which has been carried on in Germany on the subject of the oppressed Armenians.* This article, which no doubt expresses the views of the German Government, points out that the independence of the Armenians is an impossibility, and states that the agitation in their favour will not induce the German Government to alter their pacific policy. The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of this morning contains a paragraph stating that Professor Thoumaian has been warned that he must abstain from further agitation or be expelled from Prussia. It is reported that this threat has been executed, and, however this may be, the professor did not appear at a meeting held at Berlin in favour of the Armenians, at which it had been announced that he would speak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 257.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 416.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 27, 1896, 7·40 P.M.*

THE French Ambassador was received on Friday by the Sultan, and spoke at length on the gravity of the situation. His Majesty appeared satisfied with the state of affairs, and in a calm frame of mind; in fact it was only when told that if the massacres were renewed, the fleets would undoubtedly come to Constantinople, that he showed any emotion.

He assured M. Cambon that the Armenian reforms had been carried out, and would be extended to the rest of the Empire. The Memorial from the Armenians has been presented, but none of the Iradés promised in return have yet been issued.

No. 258.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 208. Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, September 17, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAD some conversation with M. Chichkine this afternoon, and found his Excellency more outspoken than usual in regard to political affairs.

He said that he had received this morning a telegram from M. Nélidow, stating that the condition of things at Constantinople was still very disturbed, but that the

* Not printed.

Sultan was more disposed to give way to the advice of the Ambassadors. He agreed that the late massacre of Armenians had been a very rude shock to those who believed in an improvement in the mode of Turkish government, but the question was so hedged round by political difficulties that there did not seem any solution at hand. The Turkish question had been discussed both at Vienna and Breslau, and the Emperor concurred with the Emperors of Austria and Germany in thinking that the only course was to maintain as long as possible the existing régime, as any violent alteration might lead to very serious political complications, and even to an European war.

Being anxious to find out how far M. Chichkine's opinions coincided with those of the late Prince Lobanow, I referred with some force to the horrible series of Armenian atrocities that had darkened the history of Turkish rule during the last twelve months, and I alluded, but without making any complaint, to the perverse hostility of the Russian press in regard to British designs and action in Constantinople.

M. Chichkine said that he could not deny that the tone of the press was not of late a friendly one towards England, but it did not seem to him very surprising, for wherever Russia attempted to move forward she found England stopping her way, and the consequence had been a strong feeling that England was her inveterate foe.

I replied that I did not think there was much use in going over old sores and mutual complaints, but that I was confident that the sole object of Her Majesty's Government and the ardent desire of the British people at the present moment was to put a stop to the horrible butchery of the Christian Armenian inhabitants of the Turkish Empire. I could not believe that this would be difficult if Russia only showed less mistrust of us, and agreed to work in cordial co-operation in the cause of humanity and civilization. The sinister designs attributed to us daily in the Russian press provoked a smile on the face of any tolerably well-informed British subject, but the evil effect was great nevertheless, and unless the two countries could understand each other a little better in the future these atrocities would probably go on.

Your Lordship was not seeking any selfish object in the East, and I was convinced your Lordship shared the desire of the other Powers, and for the same reason, to support the integrity of the Ottoman Empire as long as possible. At the same time, there was a strong feeling growing up at home which imperatively called for protection of the injured and suffering Christian subjects of the Porte. If he could remove the mistrust in Russian minds in regard to the honesty of British policy at Constantinople the rest would be comparatively easy to arrange, and I believed we should soon hear no more of Armenian or other atrocities, for the Sultan could not withstand the joint energetic pressure of Russia and England.

M. Chichkine said that he regretted the existing misunderstanding between the press of the two countries, but he repeated that he believed it was not without reason on their side. If a better understanding could be brought about he would be very glad. He would like, however, to ask me if I was speaking under instructions from your Lordship. I said that I was not, but that I was firmly convinced that anything I did to bring about a more friendly feeling and closer relations with Russia, compatible with our respective interests, would have your Lordship's entire approval.

M. Chichkine said that the Emperor would probably have an opportunity of discussing political questions with your Lordship during his approaching visit to the Queen, but that, in any case, he would not fail to report to His Imperial Majesty the friendly remarks I had made.

I was not sorry of the opportunity given me by M. Chichkine to *tâter le terrain*, and I trust that my tentative remarks may meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 259.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 748.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting on the general situation at Hadjin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 259.

Vice-Consul Massy to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Hadjin, Adana Vilayet, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival here on the 31st ultimo.

I find everything quiet, the people orderly and obedient to the law, the Kaïmakam working hard to improve the general state of the district.

Extreme poverty prevails, the people having been unable to make much money this summer. The approach of winter must bring with it still further misery, and it is to be feared that increased relief will be necessary during the winter months.

Owing to Mr. Martin's judicious care and action, a severe crisis is being passed through with quiet and order, and the Government officials acknowledge the debt which is due to that gentleman, while I, personally, am deeply grateful for the assistance he gives me in endeavouring to prevent disturbances of all kinds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 260.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 749.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting on the lawless state of the vilayet. I am bringing these facts to the notice of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 260.

Vice-Consul Massy to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Hadjin, Adana Vilayet, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, while the general condition of the interior of towns and villages of this district has improved since my last visit, and the feelings of dislike and distrust of Christians and Moslems towards each other have assumed a less acute nature, yet an element of real danger to life and property exists owing to the lawless behaviour of the various bands of Kurds, Circassians, Zuruks, and Aveshars, who haunt the mountains in the neighbourhood of roads and villages, and who fall on single or unarmed travellers, robbing or murdering them.

I have made repeated representations on this subject to the Governor-General of Adana, and to other officials. They appear unable or unwilling to display energetic action in suppressing this scourge, which paralyzes all traffic and trade. Lately, even, an armed Moslem soldier was killed on the road not far from here.

I would respectfully beg that the matter be energetically taken up, so that direct

and imperative orders be given by the Grand Vizier for necessary patrols and guards to secure safety to life and property on all roads in the Adana Vilayet.

I would beg to again repeat that any action direct with the Governor-General of Adana is of no practical use, this official being senile and incapable of following any remarks made to him. In conversation lately, he displayed a complete ignorance of the names of the various officials of his province, and he is quite unaware of all important matters connected with his vilayet.

His subordinate Governors make no secret of their opinion of him, and pronounce him to be utterly incapable of issuing an intelligent order or decision on any subject referred to him.

If insecurity continues, a large portion of the Christian population will remain unemployed, starvation will result this winter, and large sums for relief will again become necessary.

Urgent orders should be sent for the seizure and detention of well-known leaders of the above-mentioned marauding classes, especially in Hadjin district, or murder and pillage will result from their freedom this winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 261.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 750.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting on the tour of Naoum Pasha in the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 261.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Brumana, Mount Lebanon, September 5, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Naoum Pasha has occupied a considerable portion of this summer on a tour in the Lebanon.

During the month of August his Excellency visited the Provinces of Zahleh and Djezzin, and after celebrating at Beiteddin the anniversary of the accession of the Sultan, he started on a tour in North Lebanon, commencing with the Province of Meten. Instead of passing through the principal villages, his Excellency kept to the upper and thinly populated slopes, thus losing a favourable opportunity of inspecting the new Serai, the progress made in the construction of roads, and of forming a personal opinion of the general condition of the Kaïmakamate.

Considerable disappointment has been caused in the Meten by this diversion in the itinerary of the Governor-General, and it is believed that certain officials in attendance upon his Excellency, who enjoy his confidence, have purposely kept him from coming into too close contact with the leading families of the Meten, who might reveal to him a state of things which he is probably far from suspecting.

I beg to add that Naoum Pasha has now accomplished four years of his administration, and has therefore only one year left for the completion of his term of office, in accordance with the conditions of the Protocol signed at Constantinople on the 15th August, 1892.

I shall have the honour of furnishing a report on the administration of the Lebanon by Naoum Pasha, after the completion of a tour I am about to undertake throughout the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 262.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 751.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, transmitting a Memorandum by Vice-Consul Hampson on a conversation with Shakir Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 262.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Mush, September 7, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed a Memorandum by Mr. Hampson on his conversation with Shakir Pasha.

Shakir Pasha proposes to leave Mush for Van on Friday, the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 262.

Memorandum by Vice-Consul Hampson.

HIS Excellency Shakir Pasha arrived in Mush from Kharput on the 5th September.

On the following day I went with Mr. Monahan, and had a long conversation with his Excellency. The moment, after the disorders in Constantinople, did not appear very propitious for pressing the execution of reforms, but I called his Excellency's special attention to the question of the tribute ("hafir") levied by the Kurdish tribes on Christian villages; to the abuse in the collection of taxes and in the farming of the tithes; and to the failure of the Government, so far, to take any effective steps in the matter of the new Nahiés.

To all these points Shakir Pasha assured me that he would give his best attention.

I also begged his Excellency to take measures, when he visited Bitlis, to put an end to the wholesale arrests of Armenians in that city on frivolous charges, and to see that those who are in prison without sufficient cause were at once released. Shakir Pasha promised me that he would inquire carefully into the matter, and hoped to be able to stop all such vexatious proceedings on the part of the Bitlis authorities.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Mush, September 6, 1896.

No. 263.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 752.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on the situation in that town, the panic among the Armenians, and the precautions taken by the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 263.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, September 11, 1896.*

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's telegram of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that it seems certain that the instructions of the Porte to the local Governors therein referred to have really been sent. Yesterday the Vali of Erzeroum summoned the leading Armenians to the Government House, and used very reassuring language to them, telling them that all law-abiding subjects might count upon the effective protection of the authorities. He next called the principal Mussulman notables, and read to them a telegram from the Grand Vizier, presumably containing the instructions above alluded to, in which he and the military authorities were ordered to act with impartial severity towards all disturbers of public order. Finally, in the evening, he sent for the Imams and Mokahs, and directed them to preach peace and denounce recourse to violence in their respective mosques. In fact, his Excellency appears to be neglecting no precaution to maintain order; but, in spite of this, the Armenians are in a state of panic which is not easy to allay, and is increased by the posting up, on several occasions lately, of anonymous placards, denouncing the Vali as a partizan of the Armenians, and calling on the Mussulmans to renew the massacres of Christians.

I had the honour to report the substance of the above to your Excellency by telegram to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 264.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 753.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on the Armenian emigration from that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, September 12, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the emigration of Armenians from this province continues on an increasing scale, no obstacle being now raised by the authorities to the departure of such as can show that they are not indebted to the Government for arrears of taxes. The great majority find their way into Russian territory, where the construction of the Kars Railway affords employment to a large number of labourers. The returns of the Russian Consulate-General at Erzeroum show that, from the massacre of the 30th October, 1895, to the 6th September, 1896, the passports were *viséd* of 566 entire families and of 507 single men, all Armenians, emigrating to Russia. This represents between 3,000 and 4,000 souls who left the country after fulfilling all the prescribed formalities, and it is probable that a much larger number have passed the frontier clandestinely during the same period. Within the last few days over twenty families from the village of Arshouni, in the Erzeroum plain, whose crops had been ruined by hail, left *en masse* for Russia without awaiting the harvest, and it is anticipated that their example will be followed by a very large number as soon as their crops have been gathered in and disposed of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 265.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 754.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Smyrna, reporting the execution of instructions sent to subordinate officials with regard to any possible anti-Christian demonstrations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 265.

Acting Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Smyrna, September 18, 1896.*

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's telegram of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. Eliopoulos, Vice-Consul, reports from Aivali that, owing to the nature of the instructions sent to the Kaïmakams, by which they are held personally responsible for any disorders that might occur in their respective districts, the signs of a Mussulman demonstration against the Christians in that region that had been visible after the late events at Constantinople had suddenly and rapidly subsided.

Contrary to the usual practice, these orders had been sent from Constantinople direct to the local Sub-Governors.

I may add that both here and at the other seaports of this Consular district Armenian refugees from the capital are not allowed to land.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 266.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 755.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 23, 1896.*

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 517 of the 3rd July and No. 718 of the 8th September, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput, giving further details with regard to the Armenians at Hékim Han.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 266.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Kharput, August 31, 1896.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 15th instant, setting forth the statements of the Sublime Porte with regard to the condition of the Armenians at Hékim Han, I have the honour herewith to transmit extracts from a letter written to me upon the subject by Dr. Gates, who has recently returned from Malattia.

I inclose a copy of the list referred to by him as containing the names of seventy-five Christian families who were stripped of all that they possessed, and were compelled, moreover, to embrace Islamism at the time of the disturbance.

In the course of a conversation with Shakir Pasha before his departure for Van, the Marshal assured me that there then remained only eight Armenian families at Hékim Han who had not reverted to their original faith.

His statement, however, does not tally with that of the Porte, who assert, as mentioned in your telegram of the date referred to, that there now remain only three such families at Hékim Han.

M. Prejvalsky, who passed through that village on the way to Malattia, made, it appears, inquiries as to the number of converts to Islamism then residing there. And he subsequently informed me that, as far as he could ascertain, there were still from twenty to thirty Armenian families who continued to practise the Mussulman rites.

I regret that, owing to Shakir Pasha's having started from Sivas a day before the date for which his departure was fixed, I was unable to meet him at Hékim Han. He has assured me, however, that, upon his return to Kharput, he will thoroughly investigate the condition of the Armenians in the village in question.

The Vali informs me that he has no knowledge of any attack having lately been made by Moslems upon the Hékim Han Armenians; but he is sending instructions to the Mutessarif of Malattia to inquire into and report upon the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Later.—Raöuf Bey now states that he has received a telegram from the Mutessarif in question, contradicting the report of ten Armenians having been murdered recently by Moslems at Hékim Han.

R. A. F.

Inclosure 2 in No. 266.

Dr. Gates to Vice-Consul Fontana.

(Extracts.)

DURING my recent stay in Malatia, a deputation came to me from the Christians in Hékim Han imploring aid.

I had previously given 75*l.* aid for that place, which was distributed secretly for fear of the Turks, as the Christians of Hékim Han are all claimed as Moslems by the Turks. When Mr. Allen, and subsequently Dr. Wheeler, passed through Hékim Han, they were unable to get into communication with the Christians, as none of these dared to come to the missionaries. A well authenticated list was brought to me of seventy-five families of Christians in Hékim Han, all of whom have been completely stripped of all their belongings. In this list there are 62 widows and 195 orphans, besides some 44 tradesmen and farmers with their families.

The number of Christians killed at the first attack was about seventy-five. Some twenty days ago the Christians in Hékim Han were again attacked by the Moslems of the town, and ten were killed in this attack.

To show the condition of terror and distress in which the people live there, let me give you the testimony of Shakir Pasha's "azabaji." While the Pasha was in Hékim Han, this coachman went to the Armenian church. He found there three or four Armenian widows praying secretly. They were almost wholly destitute of clothing. Thinking he was a Turk, these frightened women fled away, but he called to them, "I am a Christian," and reassured them by making the sign of the cross. Then they begged for some help to cover their nakedness, and some relief from their pitiable condition. He gave them 10 piastres.

I have since sent 2,290 piastres for the relief of the orphans and widows only; but it is useless to attempt to give any general relief there until some measure of protection is assured for the Christians.

Inclosure 3 in No. 266.

STATEMENT of Christian families plundered in Hékim Han, and forced to embrace Islamism.

Names of Families.	Number in Family.	Widows in Family.	Orphans in Family.
Aranian Simon	11	2	3
„ Gaspar	4	1	3
Nersesian Agop	6	2	4
„ Gaspar	11	3	8
Ikraian Manuk	9	1	8
„ Vartavar	9	1	8
Annaian Mardiros	8	1	7
Kouyumjian Minas	8	2	6
Demirjiian Aharon	6	1	5
Toramanian Garabet	13	2	9
Der Apraham	5	2	3
Maldesian Agop	4	2	2
„ Artin	4	1	3
Davoulju Bedros	4	1	2
Vorp Minas	3	1	4
Demirji Agob	5	1	6
Chilmeleonian Bedros	8	2	4
Vartanian Kevork	5	1	3
Baboian bahag	4	1	1
Diratzu Tavid	3	2	2
Vartanian Garabet	4	2	2
M. Havsar	3	..	3
Hampartzumian Serkis	3	..	3
Kalusdian Kachadur	4	1	3
Artoian Asdur	9	2	6
Cholakian Ovig	3	1	2
Kalusdian Artin	6	2	4
„ Kalost	6	1	5
Tufenkjian Bogos	3	1	2
„ Aharon	4	..	..
„ Kachadur	10	1	8
Der Serkisian Kevork	4	1	3
„ Sarkis' wife	3	..	3
Annaian Khacho	2	1	1
Khent Hars	3	1	2
Kehisian Serkis	3	1	2
„ Krikor	2	1	1
„ Deli Mugherditch	4	1	3
Zartoshi	4	1	3
Zurnajian Garabet	3	1	2
„ Krikor	2	..	2
Ikaian Toros	4	..	..
Jujukjian Kalost	3	1	2
„ Dedé	6	..	..
„ Serkis	8	1	7
Sandukjian	7	1	6
„ Garabet	7	2	5
Jigerjoglu Ohanes	3	1	2
Derendeli Serkis	5	..	..
Annaian Torek	8	..	..
„ Kirkor	4	..	..
Nersesian Nerses	9	..	..
„ Ohan	8	..	..
„ Garabet	6	..	..
„ Agob	7	..	..
Ikasian M. Ohanes	8	..	..
„ Ovakian	8	..	..
Annaian Agob	7	..	..
Mardirosian Mard	15	1	2
Nersesian Avedis	16	..	..
„ Serkis	8	1	2
Mugherdesian Manuk	5	..	..
„ Apraham	7	..	2
Keor Serkesian Mugherditch	9	..	..
Goomish Serkis	13	1	3
Kouyumju Bedrosian			

Names of Families.	Number in Family.	Widows in Family.	Orphans in Family.
Kehia Kevork	4	..	..
Cholakian Manuk	9	1	2
Kevork Minas	6	..	2
Boyají Hovsep	5	1	4
Terzi Harotun	5	..	..
Iknaian Iknadios	4	..	..
„ Melcon	3	..	..
Arteian Toros	4	..	..
Kachoujian Kacho	7	2	3
Araboglu Manuk	8	..	..

No. 267.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 756.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 23, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput, reporting the progress made in the distribution of relief, and making various suggestions as to the best means of alleviating the distress prevailing in that district.

I approve of Mr. Fontana's suggestions, and am bringing them to the favourable consideration of the Relief Committee here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 267.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Kharput, September* 5, 1896.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 10th May last, having reference to relief work, and to the probable future need for the same in this vilayet, I now have the honour to submit the following remarks as to the general condition of the Armenians at the present moment, and the localities where assistance seems most urgently required.

Thanks to the untiring efforts throughout the spring and summer of Dr. Gates, who has been unassisted in his work, and to whom, I think, the very highest praise is due, the Armenian peasantry of this district have been enabled to tide over the long months preceding the harvest, which has now at length been reaped. It has been plentiful, and the people have now the means, provided the present exorbitant demands for taxes due both for this year, and for past years, are reasonably modified, of subsisting during the coming winter. This applies, however, to the agricultural districts; in the commercial centres the prospects of the Armenians are still very lowering.

Since the date of the despatch referred to, Dr. Gates has visited Chemish Ghesek and Malatia for the purpose of distributing relief. In the former town he distributed tools and farming implements to the value of 500*l.*, thus enabling the people, who had crowded into the town from the neighbouring plundered villages, to return to their homes and their ordinary occupations.

At Malatia 740*l.* in all were given by Dr. Gates to alleviate the most pressing need, but such a sum can be scarcely more than a drop in the bucket in the face of the great destitution prevailing in that town.

The centres for any future relief work in this vilayet should be, Dr. Gates informs me, Arabkir, Malatia, and the Charsanjak. In the Vilayet of Diarbekir, the needy points are Chunkoosh, Hainé, and the Arghana region.

3,000*l.* have been promised, it appears, for rebuilding purposes at Arabkir, where 1,581 Armenian houses were burned, 621 only remaining intact. The majority of the Armenian townspeople were engaged before the disturbances in the manufacture of cotton stuffs—sold throughout a large part of Asia Minor—from cotton thread imported

from Manchester. They were then the most thriving community in this province, as they are to-day the most destitute. During the tour of the Red Cross delegates in this region a large number of looms were distributed among the Arabkir Armenians in order to enable them to recommence their work, but unfortunately they have no means of procuring the raw material in the form of cotton thread for their looms.

In a conversation I recently had with a number of Armenians summoned from Arabkir to give evidence in the Court here I was assured that 6,000 "bogchas," or bales, of "tplik," or cotton thread, would suffice, if carefully distributed, to set the whole Arabkir Christian population upon their feet again. The price at Manchester of 6,000 bales of cotton thread, red and white, No. 20, would be 2,000*l.* Freight and duty combined would amount to about 5 piastres per bale, but my informants thought that the Arabkirlis might possibly find the means for paying the £T. 300 required for freight and duty upon 6,000 bales, and they assured me that the proceeds of the sale of the goods when manufactured would enable the people thenceforth to import the thread at their own expense.

Dr. Gates, whom I have consulted upon the subject, confirms the statements of these men, and is of opinion that the plan of providing the manufacturers at Arabkir with cotton for their looms is the one most calculated to permanently relieve the distress prevailing there.

Should this suggestion meet with approval, I would further suggest that the cotton thread might be shipped directly from Manchester to Dr. Gates' address, with a view to insuring its wise distribution at Arabkir.

As regards the Malatia poor, the chief aim of any future relief work should be, Dr. Gates thinks, to provide as far as possible for the more friendless of the orphans, of whom there are in all upwards of 1,600, and for the widows, who number over 500.

An attempt has been made to start embroidery work among these women, such as would command a market in England or elsewhere, but owing to their inexperience, and for other reasons, the project has not proved very successful. The measures taken by Shakir Pasha to facilitate the circulation of the Malatia artisans among the neighbouring villages will do much, it is hoped, towards providing a large part of the Armenian population with the means of gaining a livelihood.

The problem, however, of providing for the friendless widows and orphans still remains, and would appear extremely difficult of solution.

Many of the former have subsisted during the last few months mainly upon fruit picked up in the gardens and orchards which are so numerous in Malatia, but in the coming winter the position of these poor women will be precarious in the extreme.

The schools attached to the Catholic Mission, which was destroyed by fire, are now being rapidly rebuilt, and will very shortly be completed. These schools will suffice to accommodate over 1,000 children. The monthly cost of one orphan's maintenance there would not, I learn, exceed 3 medjidiés. If 50 or 100 were placed in the schools *en bloc*, the cost for each child would not exceed 2 medjidiés per month. Thus, 400*l.* would suffice to feed, clothe, and educate 100 orphans in the Mission schools at Malatia for the space of one year.

The idea of educating children in Catholic schools may not, perhaps, meet with approval among Protestant Christians, but no question of dogma should be allowed, I would submit, to counterbalance the grim fact of hundreds of helpless children needing food, raiment, and shelter, and this before any religious precepts can be instilled into their minds.

The Charsanjak Caza has always been, it seems, a weak point in this vilayet. It is an agricultural district, but at the same time a populous and a poor one, and at the present time the poverty of the Armenian peasantry is enhanced by taxation in no way proportionate to their attentuated means, and their lot is embittered by the forcible and even outrageous way in which the taxes are collected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 268.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 757.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch by the British Vice-Consul at Koniah to Her Majesty's Consul acting at Angora, reporting the forced expulsion from Silla, a large village in the neighbourhood of Koniah, of thirty to forty Armenian families.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 268.

Vice-Consul Keun to Acting Consul Richards.

Sir, *Koniah, September 13, 1896.*

WITH reference to the late massacres at Constantinople, I beg to inform you that the only act which may be imputed as its consequence was the forced expulsion from Silla [? Silé], a large village close by, of some thirty to forty Armenian families, and this at the instigation of the military officer residing at that village.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. D. KEUN.

No. 269.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 758.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I received a telegram on Saturday, the 19th instant, from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting a riot in that town on the previous evening.

A Turkish house near the Mosque caught fire, and the report spread among the Turks that Armenians had fired the Mosque itself. They thereupon attacked the Armenians wherever they met them, with the result that ten were wounded one severely. The troops and police, however, acted with great promptitude and vigour; several Turks were arrested, and one killed. The Vali's conduct was, according to Mr. Richard's account, all that could be desired. He took all possible precautions against the renewal of the disorders, and patrolled the streets during most of the night himself.

I have also received a telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput, stating that a slight disturbance had occurred on Friday at Gumush Maden, which was caused, according to the official report, by an inroad of Kurds. A small body of troops was sent from Kharput, ten hours' distant, and order was soon restored.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 270.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 279.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 30, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 746 of the 20th instant relative to the rising in the Hauran.

I approve the representations which you made to the Grand Vizier and your proposal to sound his Highness as to the possibility of sending Hussein Fevzi Pasha on a mission to the disturbed districts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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